momGuesswhat

# mgw 517

newsMagazine

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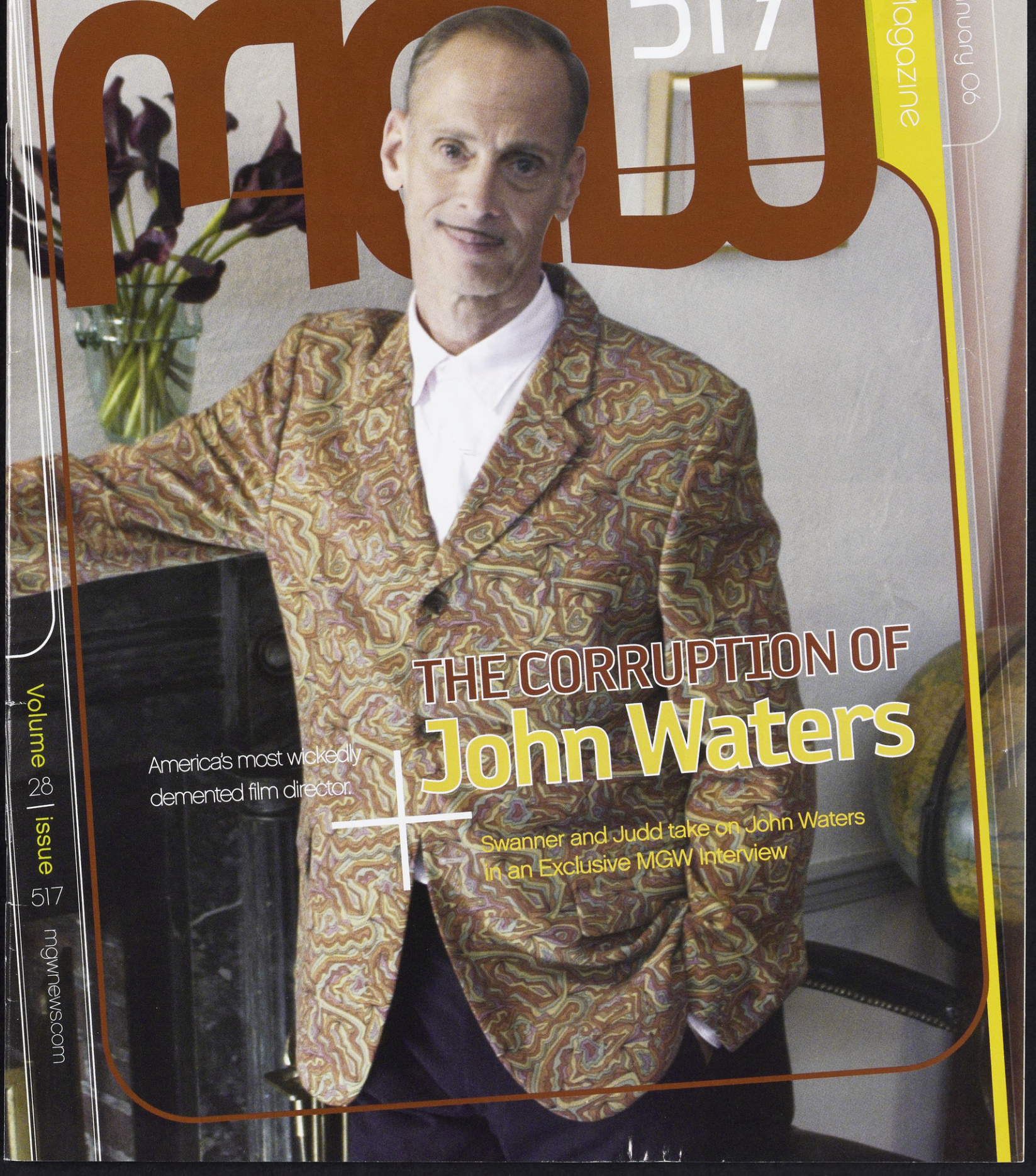


## THE CORRUPTION OF John Waters

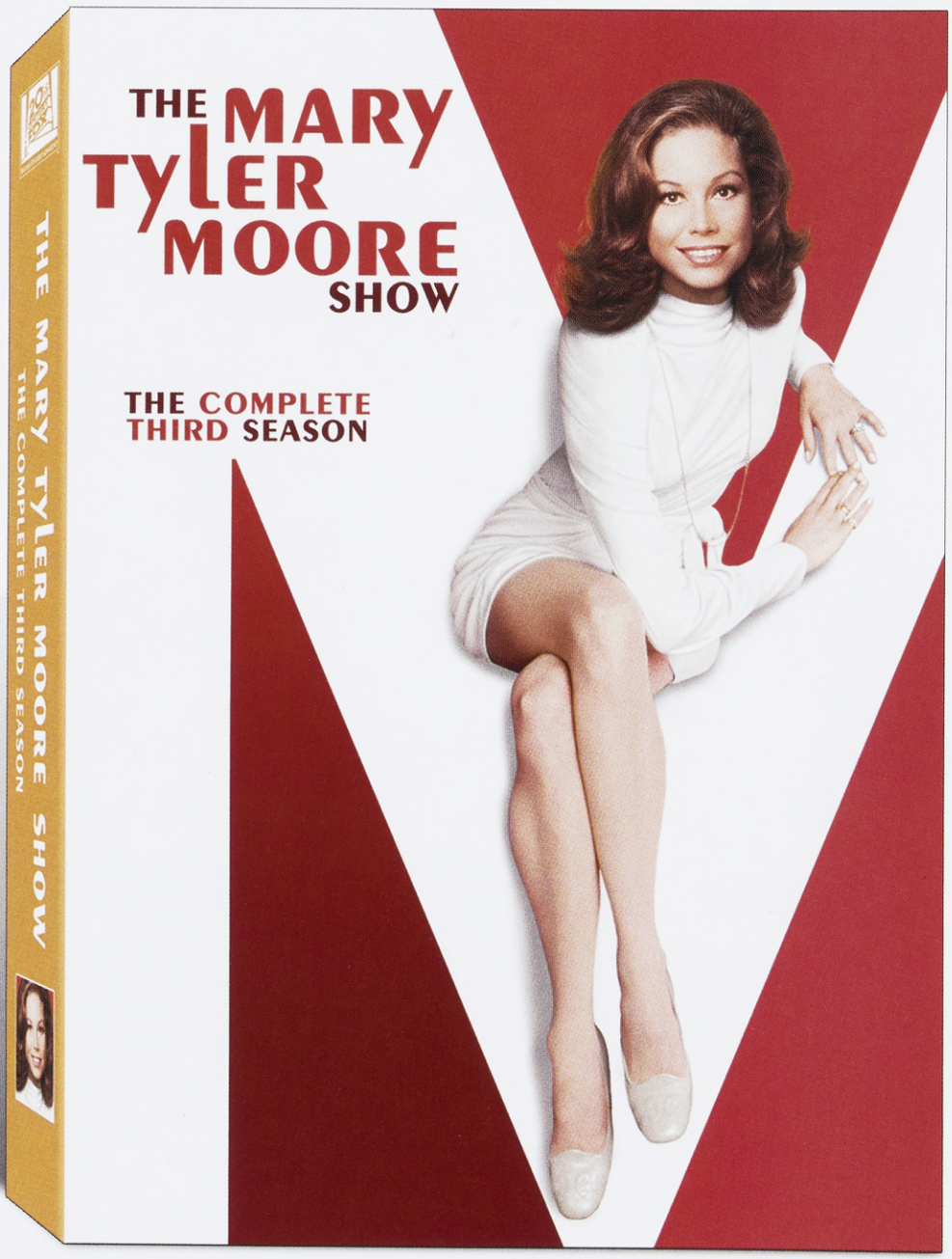
America's most wickedly demented film director.

+

Swanner and Judd take on John Waters in an Exclusive MGW Interview

Volume 28 | issue 517 mgwnews.com

# ANOTHER "MARY" IS COMIN' OUT!

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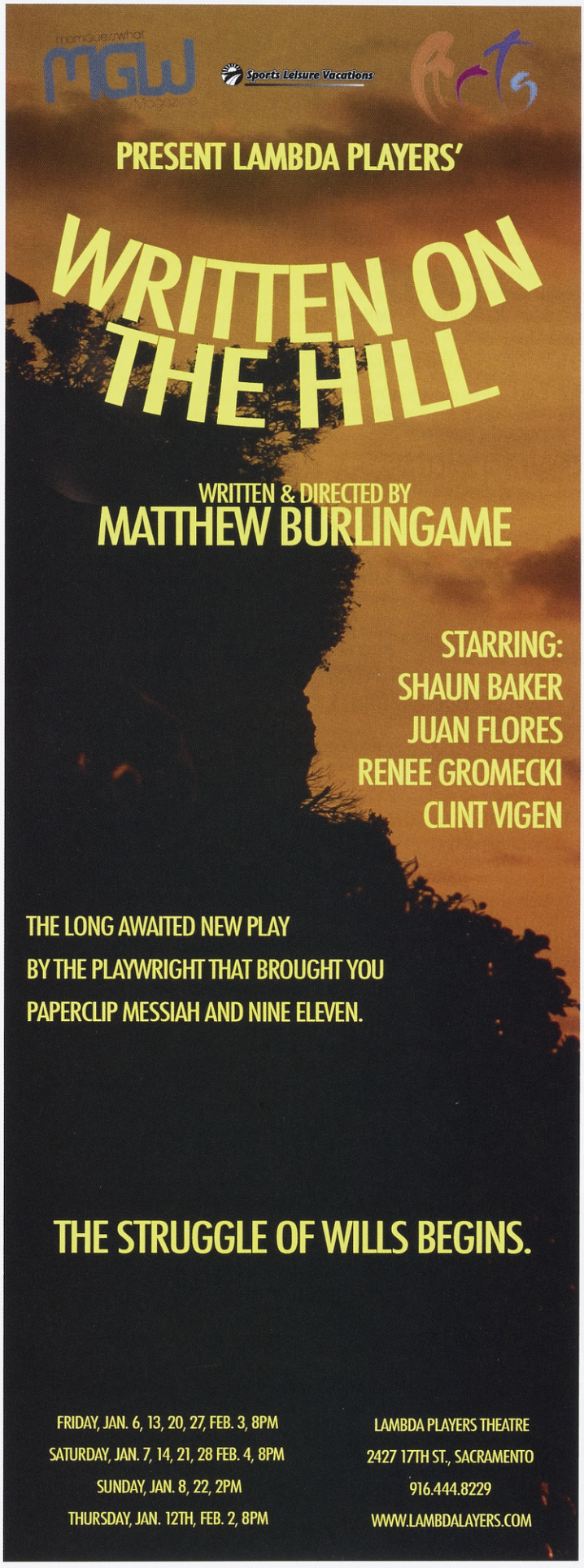



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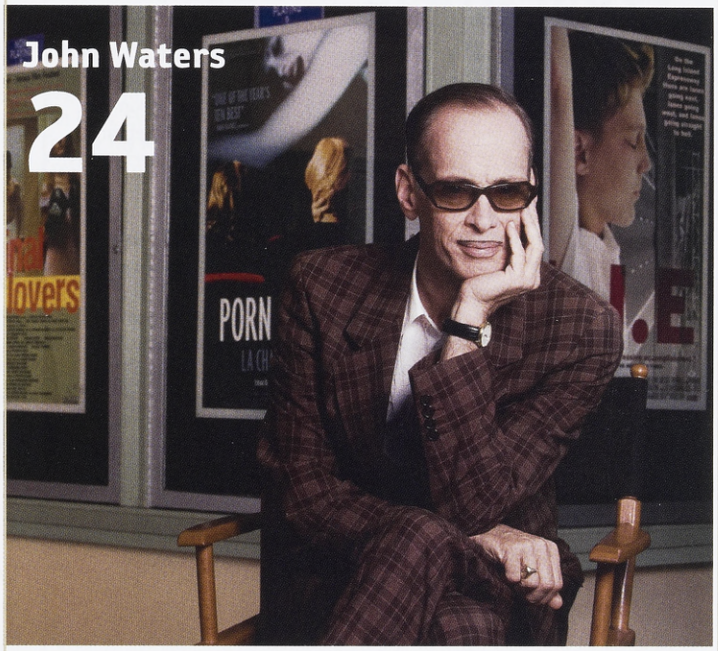



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## BUSINESS DIRECTORY

# DISPATCH

## FROM THE EDITOR

## Fall (On Your Knees) From Grace

Technically, I could be considered a religious leader. So could Kate Clinton. So could-insert shudder here-our own Swanner and Judd. All it took was filling out an online application and pledging to follow the subscribing church's religious philosophy, which is to "promote the freedom of religion and do that which is right. It is up to the individual to determine what is right as long as it does not infringe on the rights of others and is within the law."

Most organized religions require a more stringent screening process for their religious leaders; years of study, rights of passage, rituals and spiritual tests and most often, as in the case of many of the more "traditional" churches, a strong case of self-denial.

James Baker, Jimmy Swaggart, Pat Roberts-whether from sex or money-all televangelists and self-righteous preachers climb the hill of their church-dictated morality only to tumble back down, most often charged with the one thing they preached the loudest against.

Lonnie Latham, senior pastor at South Tulsa Baptist Church and executive committee member of the Southern Baptist Convention, was arrested on a lewdness charge for propositioning a male plainclothes policeman. Latham asked the officer to join him in his room for oral sex. Latham believes gays can become hetero "if they accept Jesus Christ as their savior and reject their 'sinful, destructive lifestyle.'"

Latham denies the charges, claiming he was ministering to prostitutes. Once again, we see a representative of organized religion doing the very things he preaches against. In the Southern Baptist religion his list of sins is extensive. But in the religion of the human condition, the only real sin is that of blatant hypocrisy. Why is it our religious leaders are the ones who fall the furthest and the hardest? Perhaps after shooting their mouths off for so long-after judging others so unyieldingly-they make it impossible to live up to their own ideals. Especially when they are closeted oral sex fanatics.

Regardless of the fact that Latham has proven himself guilty of being a hypocrite, the real question that no one seems to be asking is: is he guilty of the charges brought against him? According to reports he was arrested after approaching an undercover officer and inviting him back to a hotel for oral sex. He did not offer to exchange money for the act, according to police, which resulted in a lewdness charge instead of a solicitation charge. Since when is it illegal to simply invite a legal-age person of either sex back to your room for consensual sex?

The Supreme Court ruled that what two consenting adults do sexually behind closed doors is their business. People of all orientations meet every night in bars, restaurants, grocery stores, chat rooms, parks and other places and many of them are invited to a home or hotel room for sex. However, Latham's offer of oral sex was met with a lewdness charge and the destruction of his career.

On one hand-the out and proud gay man hand-I'm glad it happened and enjoy seeing self-hating religious bigots exposed for the hypocrites they are. On the other hand-I hate that it happened because of another trumped-up entrapment by the legal system and their continuous persecution of gay men. And if I had another hand-a spiritual hand-it would hope that Latham finds the peace with his true nature that we all seek, and uses his faith to help heal and no longer repress our community.

**Matthew Burlingame**
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

MGW

ESTABLISHED 1978 PUBLISHED BY: GUESS WHAT MEDIA, LLC

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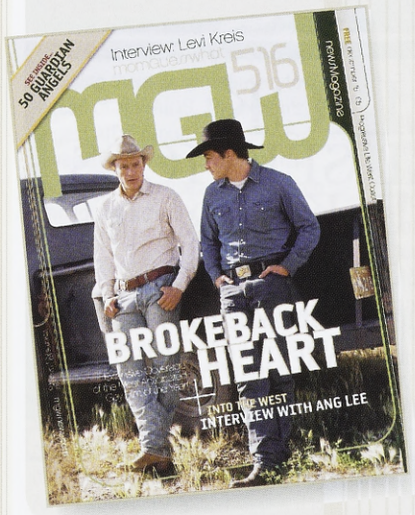
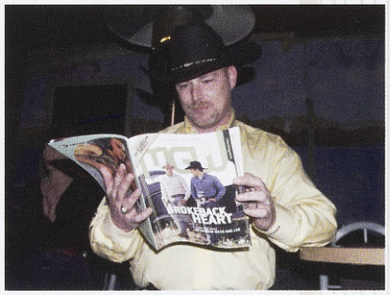
Progressive Life on the West Coast

# RESPONSE

## PREVIOUS ISSUE



## TO ALL AT THE NEW MGW:

Thank you so much for running the advertisement for the Lavender Library, Archives and Cultural Exchange in your current issue. As a community-based non-profit organization, publicity is a constant need. With a budget the size of ours (small), outreach can be a real challenge. We greatly appreciate the generosity of MGW in providing this advertisement on a pro-bono basis. We look forward to working with MGW in the future.

Regards,

Michael Colby
President, Board of Directors
Lavender Library, Archives and Cultural Exchange of Sacramento
Lavenderlibrary.org

The Breaking Barriers "Harvest Hoedown" held on November 12th, 2005 raised over $7,500 for the organization's programs serving low-income people with Breast Cancer and/or HIV/AIDS. Two hundred and forty people attended the event and enjoyed entertainment with live music by Richard March, tunes spun by DJ Jonesy and fabulous food from Refer-A-Chef. Sponsors of the event included: Outword News, MGW Newsmagazine, Sir Speedy, Fidelity National Title, McMartin Realty, Premier Lending, MAC VIVA Glam, FACES, The California Endowement, Benefit Insurance Services, California Cable & Telecommunications Association, Valley Rainbow Pages, Kaiser Permanente, The Depot, David A. Shestak Design & Consultation, The Bolt, United Way, The Lavender Library, and of course, CGNIE.

In-kind support and silent auction donations were provided by: McGee's Old Time Photo, The Gifted Gardener, Refer-A-Chef, MGW Newsmagazine, Outword, The Tower Theatre, Jamba Juice, Time Tested Books, Trendsetters, Vizcaya Hotel, Phoenix Gallery, Hot Rods, Evangeline' Costume Shop, Feather Thy Nest, Starbucks Coffee, Crest Theatre, Sacramento Antique Faire, Ca Expo/State Faire, Inn at Parkside, Brian McMartin, Ron Edington, Craig Spatola, Lola Atkinson and Michael Sweeney.
Special thanks go to: Steve Nesbitt, David Shestak, Mary O'Neal, Jeffrey Gordy and ALL of our incredible volunteers!

The mission of Breaking Barriers Community Services Center is to coordinate a community response to assist in the early diagnosis, prevention of and care for people living with catastrophic illnesses. Volunteers are the heart of the programs, providing essential services such as transportation, household chore work, food delivery and companionship. The outreach programs include HIV prevention outreach and the identification of new HIV cases to connect those individuals with medical care and other services.

Craig Spatola
Breaking Barriers
Phone: 916.447.2437
www.breakingbarriers-sacramento.org

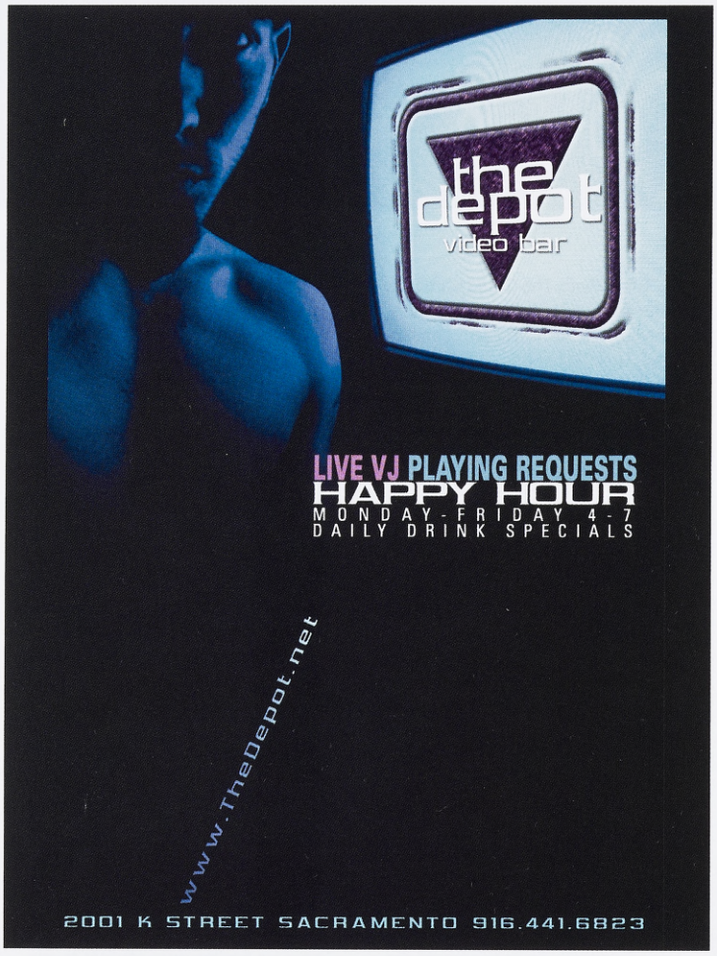
It is with great sadness that I learned today of the closure of The Center for Complementary Care. This is a clinic that has provided alternative treatment to the HIV community for over 10 years. Their services included nutritional counseling, massage therapy, acupuncture, and chiropractic services. Due to funding cuts from an administration more interested in their oil money and wars based on lies than the welfare of its own citizens, our very own community will suffer a terrible loss with this closure. Jan Trifiro and Laurie Lewis, the center's cofounders, have done an amazing job over the years fighting tooth and nail to provide vital alternative services to the HIV community.

As a chiropractor, I have personally worked with the center providing my services to the HIV community. The benefits of alternative care to those suffering HIV are amazing. Countless times I have witnessed patients get involved with The Center for Complementary Care make dramatic changes in their health and blood chemistry as a result of the work we do.

I hope this tragic loss will only serve to enlighten our community that the fight to help the HIV community is more critical now than ever. As the funds get cut even further, what services to our suffering brothers and sisters will be cut next? There are some incredible events coming up where you will have the opportunity to help make sure this doesn't happen to any other services in Sacramento. The Oscar Party, The Nor Cal AIDS Challenge bike ride, and others. Some of you may be able to give your time, some others may be able to give $20 or $50 dollars, and some may be able to buy tables and full page adds. I just hope each of you will give whatever you can.

Dr. Darrick Lawson
The Healing Touch Chiropractic
DrDarrickLawson.com

Do you know...



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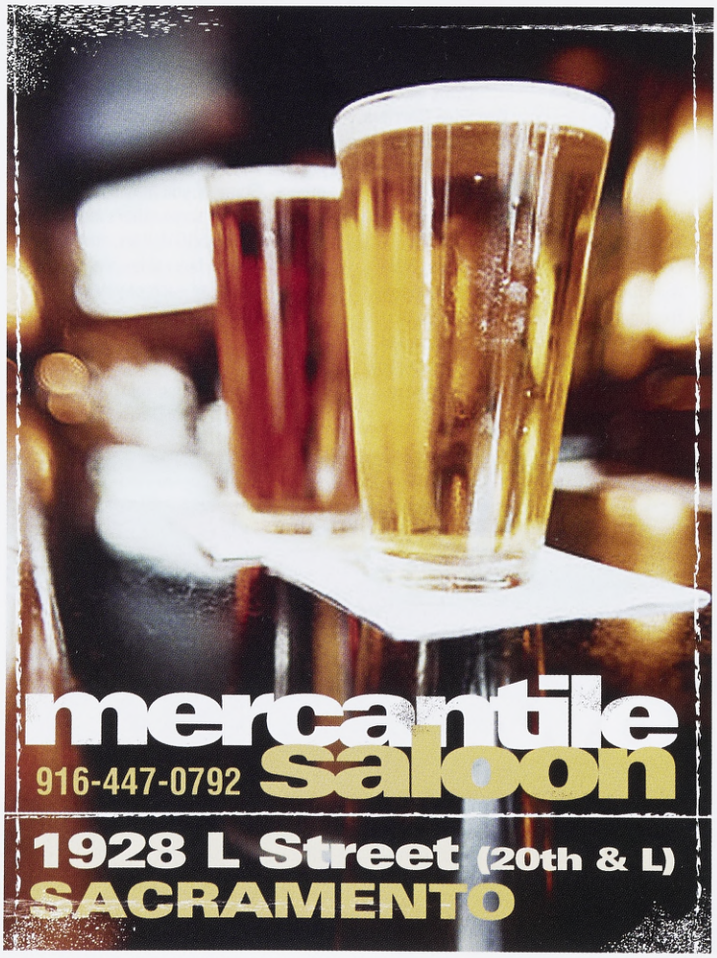


# newsWIRES

## Los Angeles

### AIDS GROUP PROTESTS VIAGRA ADS

The AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) confronted the makers of Viagra, accusing them of contributing to the spread of HIV/AIDS. The nation's largest AIDS group, claims that an advertising campaign for Viagra is encouraging its use as a party drug among gay men. TV and newspaper ads for New Year's Eve show an attractive, over-forty male grinning knowingly at the camera and saying, "What are you doing New Year's Eve?" According to the AHF it is an outrage to reference the biggest party night of the year and therefore the ads encourage the use of Viagra as a 'party drug. Viagra is one of the most popular substances by gay men at raves throughout the country. An LA based newspaper claims it is leading to unsafe sex.

## New York

### TV SHOW UNDER FIRE

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) and NBC are asking for the community's support of the upcoming series "The Book of Daniel," a drama about an Episcopal priest and his family. The show is being protested by anti-gay religious extremists in part due to the show featuring a gay character. Emmy-nominee Aidan Quinn stars as the Reverend Daniel Webster, Christian Campbell plays his gay son, and Oscar-winner Ellen Burstyn stars as Bishop Beatrice Congreve. Based solely on promotions and marketing for the series, the radical anti-gay group American Family Association (AFA) issued an allegedly inaccurate release urging members to direct letters and phone calls of protest to local NBC affiliates asking them not to air the show. "It doesn't surprise me that the American Family Association would be afraid of this series—it shows a family that's both deeply religious and loving and accepting of their gay son," said Damon Romine, GLAAD's entertainment media director. "I'm sure the AFA is terrified that a show like this might open people's eyes to the fact that anti-gay bigotry is neither a religious nor a family value." Contact NBC at nbcshows@nbcuni.com or Bob Wright, Chairman NBC, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10112.

## Washington

### BLACK GAY LEADERS TO HOLD NATIONAL SUMMIT

African American gays and clergy who are gay positive are scheduled to hold a summit to discuss how to confront a resurgence of homophobia within the African American culture. African American gays are often either overlooked, or openly persecuted by most African American churches. Many African Americans in the U.S. support President Bush's opposing stance regarding Democratic politicians general support of LGBT issues. Church leaders were instrumental in the advancement of amendments in several states to ban same-sex marriage. The growing anti-gay climate from clergy reached came to the forefront in October, 2005, when gay African American leader Keith Boykin was prevented from speaking at the Millions More March despite an invitation from march organizer Louis Farrakhan. The summit organized by the National Black Justice Coalition will be held January 20 and 21 at First Iconium Baptist Church in Atlanta. Among the participants will be Rev. Al Sharpton, and Bishop Dr. Yvette Flunder, Senior Pastor of the United Church of Christ's City of Refuge Church in San Francisco.

## Italy

### POPE ATTACKS GAY FAMILIES

Pope Benedict XVI stressed the importance of a family based on heterosexual marriage as he presided over a service on New Year's Eve. This came as the Roman Catholic Church again opposed all attempts to give legal recognition to unmarried couples in Italy. In his homily, he referred to an address he gave in June on the role of the family, when he referred to marriage as a union between man and woman and condemned same-sex unions as anarchic "pseudo-matrimony." The papal assault on same-sex unions was part of an orchestrated plan by the Vatican being played in several countries. Scotland and Ireland's Roman Catholic leaders used their New Year messages to attack the British government for approving civil partnerships and said gays are ruining families.

## Korea

### WIDESPREAD DISCRIMINATION IN KOREA

Over 80 percent of self-identified South Korean lesbians have experienced ostracism and discrimination according to a recent survey conducted by the Lesbian Rights Research Institute (LRRI). This is the first time the effects of bias Korea have been documented and the LRRI believes a survey of gay men would find identical results. The survey of 507 women in their 20s and 30s from three South Korean cities, including Seoul found that 84 percent had either been ostracized by their families or suffered other discrimination. Nearly a third said they lacked an emotional support system. The women faced discrimination at school or work and over half said they realized their lesbianism as teens.

## Spain

### SEXUALITY GROUNDS FOR ASYLUM

Until now only the Netherlands, Canada and handful of countries offered political asylum to GLBT people fleeing their homelands from persecution over their sexuality. Now with a law proposed by Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, Spain will join the ranks of these countries. A spokesperson for the Spanish government said it was amending its asylum laws to bring the country into line with other "progressive" countries. Spain in June became the third country to legalize same-sex marriage.

THE Jack MapleTEAM...

# CITIZEN ACTIVISM

by Boyce Hinman

**CHIEF LOBBYIST LAMBDA LETTERS PROJECT**

Boyce Hinman may be contacted at LambdaLP@aol.com or (916) 728-1261.

One thing that differentiates the Lambda Letters Project from other LGBTI lobby groups is the degree to which it enables ordinary people to have an impact on the legislative process. Lambda Letters helps people write, email, and telephone their legislators on the legislation they care about. Last year it helped people just like you send over 353,000 letters, E-mails and phone calls to their legislators.

Those letters, emails, and calls do have an impact. We have letters from 8 legislators saying so, including letters from four of the six LGBTI state legislators; Assembly Members Mark Leno and John Laird and Senators Sheila Kuehl and Christine Kehoe.

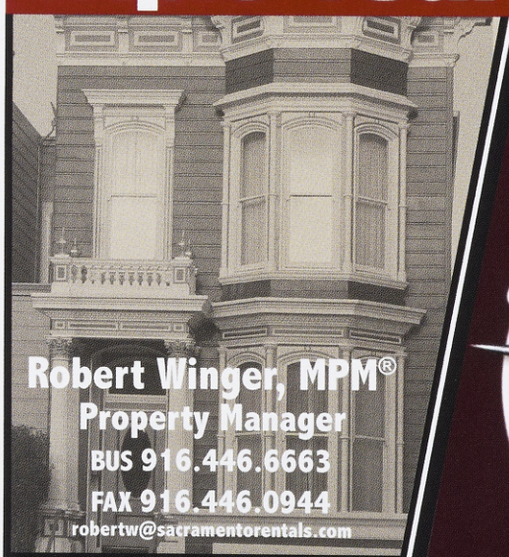
Now Lambda Letters is happy to announce two improvements to its services that make citizen activism even easier. For years the Project has issued alerts asking people to send emails to their legislators about important legislation of the day. Frankly the process was always a little awkward for those who use. it. Now Lambda Letters is contracting with Capitol Web Works to provide a much easier way for people to respond to our email alerts. What people see when they use the process will look more professional as well. In the past we have sent email alerts to a list of people on our email alert list. Now our alerts will also be posted on our web page, at www.lambdaletters.org. People can join our alert system by sending a request to LambdaLP@aol.com.

For years Lambda Letters has posted a list of the bills it is tracking on its web page. The list shows the author and purpose of each bill, where it is in the legislative process and whether Lambda Letters supports or opposes it. Previously the status of the bill was updated once a month. Now, with the assistance of a service called Capitol Track, the list will be updated daily. Ordinary citizens will be able to quickly and easily find out what happened to bills that have direct impact on their lives. To see this list direct your computer's browser to lambdaletters.org. Then click on Legislative Update.

There is a myth that ordinary people have no way of influencing legislators or of affecting the legislation that effects us all in our daily lives. Actually, the LGBTI community has made immense progress in California over the past several years. Our community's lobbying groups have been an important part in that progress. But input from ordinary citizens has also been very important. Legislators pay close attention to mail from people in their districts.

So we invite everyone to make use of our services to make their voices heard in Sacramento. You can begin by visiting Lambda Letters' web page at lambdaletters.org or by writing to us for further information at LambdaLP@aol.com. Let's work together to make 2006 the best year yet for our community.

Triple Your Pleasure at 19th & I

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# LAMBDA PLAYERS

BY RACHEL MORIMOTO

## *write it on the hill*

The words are from one of the defining moments of "Written On The Hill", the new play by Sacramento playwright Matthew Burlingame. It is a play that is hard for Burlingame, and others to define.

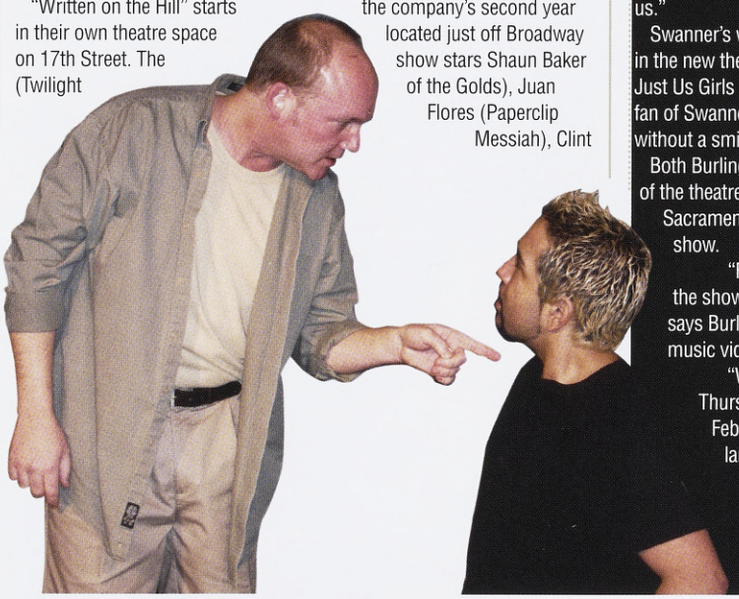
"It's sort of a cross between Deathtrap and Gods and Monsters," says Lambda Players Theatre president and fellow Sacramento playwright Tom Swanner. "It's a very different from Matt's other plays, but still very much a Burlingame original." Burlingame and Swanner co-wrote the Lambda Players' Halloween showing of Countess Dracula. Other works of Burlingame's include Paperclip Messiah and Nine Eleven—both Lambda Players productions and both well received by audiences.

In just 8 years of being involved with Sacramento theatre, Burlingame has written, directed, acted, teched, or produced an accumulative around 150 plays and theatre projects. But his greatest love has been that of working with Sacramento's GLBT 17-year-old theatre company Lambda Players.

"I started volunteering in the company's tenth season and got to work with some great people. I went to college for years to learn theatre arts, but I learned more from working with this company than all my years in college."

Burlingame served as the Artistic Director for Lambda Players for the past two seasons. Now he hands the position off to Swanner and fellow board member Brian Judd. "Brian and Tom have always been my sounding board for the artistic side of this company. I can't think of anyone more suited for the job."

"Written on the Hill" starts the company's second year in their own theatre space located just off Broadway on 17th Street. The show stars Shaun Baker (Twilight of the Golds), Juan Flores (Paperclip Messiah), Clint Vigen (Paperclip Messiah, Catch) and newcomer Renee Gromecki. The story begins with Vigen's character bringing male nurse Ted Cole (Flores) to look after Maeron Vann (Baker), a reclusive and famous-in-his-own-time writer, after a fall down a cliff outside his private cottage by the ocean injures his back. Despite protests from Vann, the nurse stays at the cottage eventually winning favor from Vann and his eccentric German housekeeper Behrtaa (Gromecki).



The show is a drama with humor sprinkled throughout to keep the mood from getting to heavy. Still it does not prepare audiences for the twists that come in the second act that pit Vann and Cole against one another in a battle of wills that leaves audiences on the edge of their seats.

"I'm very proud of this work, and the cast and crew. They worked very hard, and under strained conditions to make this project happen and they all bring the show to life better than I ever imagined," says Burlingame.

Likewise, Burlingame is proud of the production's set, which is in many ways the fifth star of the show. Indeed, when the curtain rises, audiences are treated to a lifelike vision of a cottage courtyard by the ocean. The brainchild of technical director and designer Kurt Kurtis, and many hours of work by his design crew, the set contains real trees and even a chicken coop for a running gag in the show.

Next for Burlingame will be the direction of another original Lambda Players' work, "I Do, I Don't" written by Swanner. "Lambda Players has always been blessed with strong original works," says Burlingame. "Tom's play is the latest in a succession of his plays that have been huge hits for us."

Swanner's work includes Trolling, Opening Lines, and the first show run in the new theatre space, the lesbian comedy Just Us Girls. Trolling and Just Us Girls were also directed by Burlingame who considers himself a fan of Swanner's work. "You can't see or read Tom's work and walk away without a smile."

Both Burlingame and Swanner will begin focusing their talents outside of the theatre, however, as both will be working with the producers of the Sacramento cable access show Being Gay Today to restructure the show.

"For a long time now the producers have been wanting to give the show a bit of a makeover and Tom and I hope to help with that," says Burlingame. Expect to see more on location segments, original music videos and other new features on the show.

"Written on the Hill" runs Fridays & Saturdays, with some Thursday and Sunday shows thru Feb. 4. "I Do, I Don't" opens Feb. 10. 2427 17th Street, Sacramento. 916.444.8229., lambdaplayers.com

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# mama's BOY

## steve fernandez

**Age: 22 Sign: Cancer**
Hair: Brown
Eyes: Brown Height: 5'11"
Weight: 150
Lived in Sac: 5 Years

### FAVORITES

**BAR:**
For safety's sake I'll have to say the Depot.

**MUSIC:**
It's always changing but I love anything.

**RESTAURANT:**
Tres Hermanas & Ernesto

**THINGS:**
My Friends

**INDULGENCE:**
If I told you I wouldn't be a Mama's Boy

**CELEBS TO HANG OUT WITH:**
My friends. They're gorgeous & all celebs in their own right.

**THINGS ABOUT SAC:**
All the activities we have access to

**GREATEST FEAR:**
Ending up at the Merc without Sean Wallace

**GREATEST CHALLENGE FACING GAY PEOPLE TODAY:**
The Bravo network

**WORK OUT TIPS:**
GO!!

## laney

**Age: 29 Sign: Virgo**
Hair: Blonde, Brown, Whatever!
Eyes: Blue
Height: 5'7" Weight: No Comment!
Lived in Sac: 18 years

### FAVORITES

**BAR:**
Sad but True, Club 21

**MUSIC:**
Anything with a Beat

**RESTAURANT:**
Mikuni

**THINGS:**
Make-up, Puppies, and Food

**INDULGENCE:**
Egyptian Cotton Sheets

**CELEBS TO HANG OUT WITH:**
Hah! In Sac?

**THING ABOUT SAC:**
The weather and proximity to everything

**GREATEST FEAR:**
People who chew with their mouth open

**GREATEST CHALLENGE FACING GAY PEOPLE TODAY:**
People sayign they're "Okay" with gays but not really being "Okay"

**WORK OUT TIPS:**
Actually making it to the gym would be a start!

# mama's GIRL

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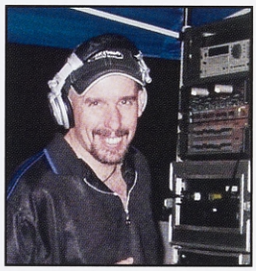
# *DJ Jon Williams* TOP 10

1. *Hung Up* - **MADONNA**
   SDP VOCAL & CHUS AND CEBALLOS MIXES
2. *My Humps* - **BLACK EYED PEAS**
   PAULO'S LA-2-NY MIX
3. *Don't Forget About Us* - **MARIAH CAREY**
   MORAN & RIGG MIX
4. *Werq* - **MIKE DA WIZARD**
   OH NO SHE DIDN'T MIX
5. *Seasons of Love* - **CAST OF RENT**
   EDDIE BAEZ & GOMI MIXES
6. *House is not a home* - **DEBORAH COX**
   TONY MORAN MIX
7. *Burnin' Up* - **DONNA BLAKELY**
   ROSABEL FIREBAL MIX
8. *Sweat Dreams 2006* - **EURYTHMICS**
   STEVE ANGELLO BOOTLEG MIX
9. *Waiting in the Darkness* - **ERICK MORILLO**
   SUPERCHUMBO MIX
10. *Stick with U* - **PUSSYCAT DOLLS**
    WHITE LABEL MIXES



## SCHEDULE

**monthly guestspot at bojangles - rotating wednesdays**
**thursdays - faces nightclub - sacramento, ca**
**fridays - faces nightclub - sacramento, ca**
**saturdays - bacchus house - san diego, ca**
**various out of state guestspots - check the website**
**www.djjonwilliams.com**

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momGuesswhat MGW newsMagazine

# MOVES TO NEW OFFICE

In November 2005, MGW Publishers Jeffry and Terry decided to move the MGW offices to a new location—right above Club 21/BoJangles on 21st Street in Sacramento. It would be a big task after 4 years in their location at 1103 T Street. But moving the office closer to the heart of Lavender Heights was appealing to both of them.

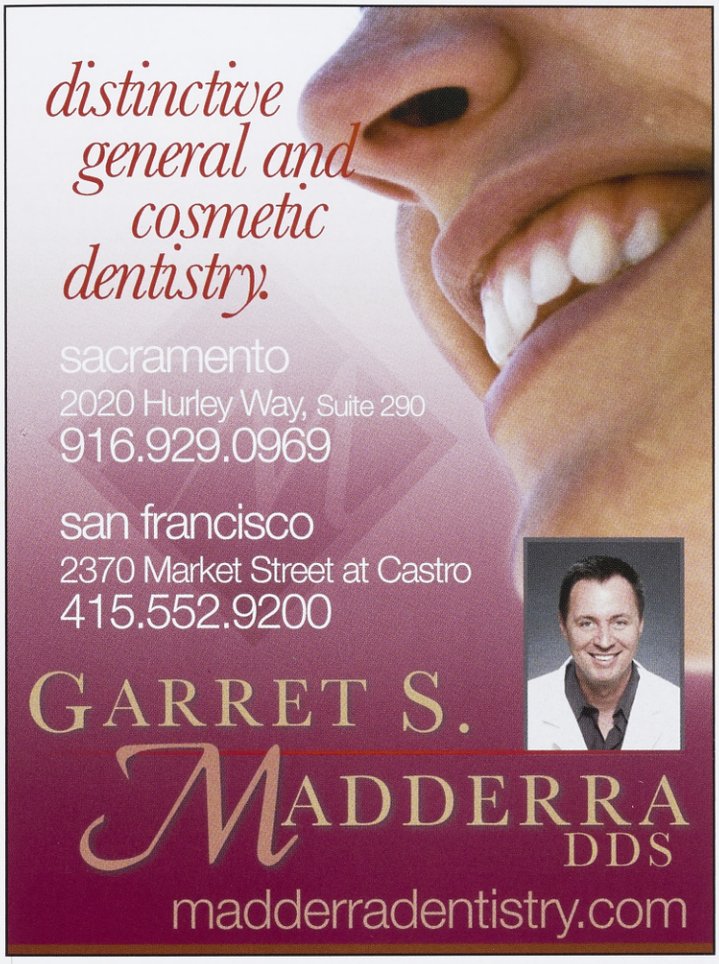
But some weren't as enthusiastic about the move, like Editorial Director Matthew. Setting up a new office during deadline—moving 28 years of archives, 1000s of books— and leaving behind great Chinese food—what were they thinking?

Others, like Sales Executive Rich, were ecstatic and couldn't wait to be closer to Lavender Heights! Hot Rods, the Distillery, Etc., five bars in two blocks and the new Lumens Lighting right across the street? He was in gay heaven!

Graphic Designer Mark didn't care where he was as long as his computer was hooked up and he could make all the pretty pages in this issue!

While the new office is still being unpacked amidst a tight print deadline—and Editor Matt and Designer Mark are slaving away over the issue while the others recover from carrying 28 years of a publishing business up a very long flight of stairs…everyone at MGW is more than happy in their new home at 1123 21st Street, Suite 200.

So Publisher Jeffry put on his hard hat and spent weeks packing and cleaning and getting everything boxed up for the first week of January. Together he and Rich and their friend Mike grabbed a few friends from Faces and a moving van and bravely started the journey toward their new home—which had been recently remodeled by the guys at Capitol Painting and Services (see ad in this issue).

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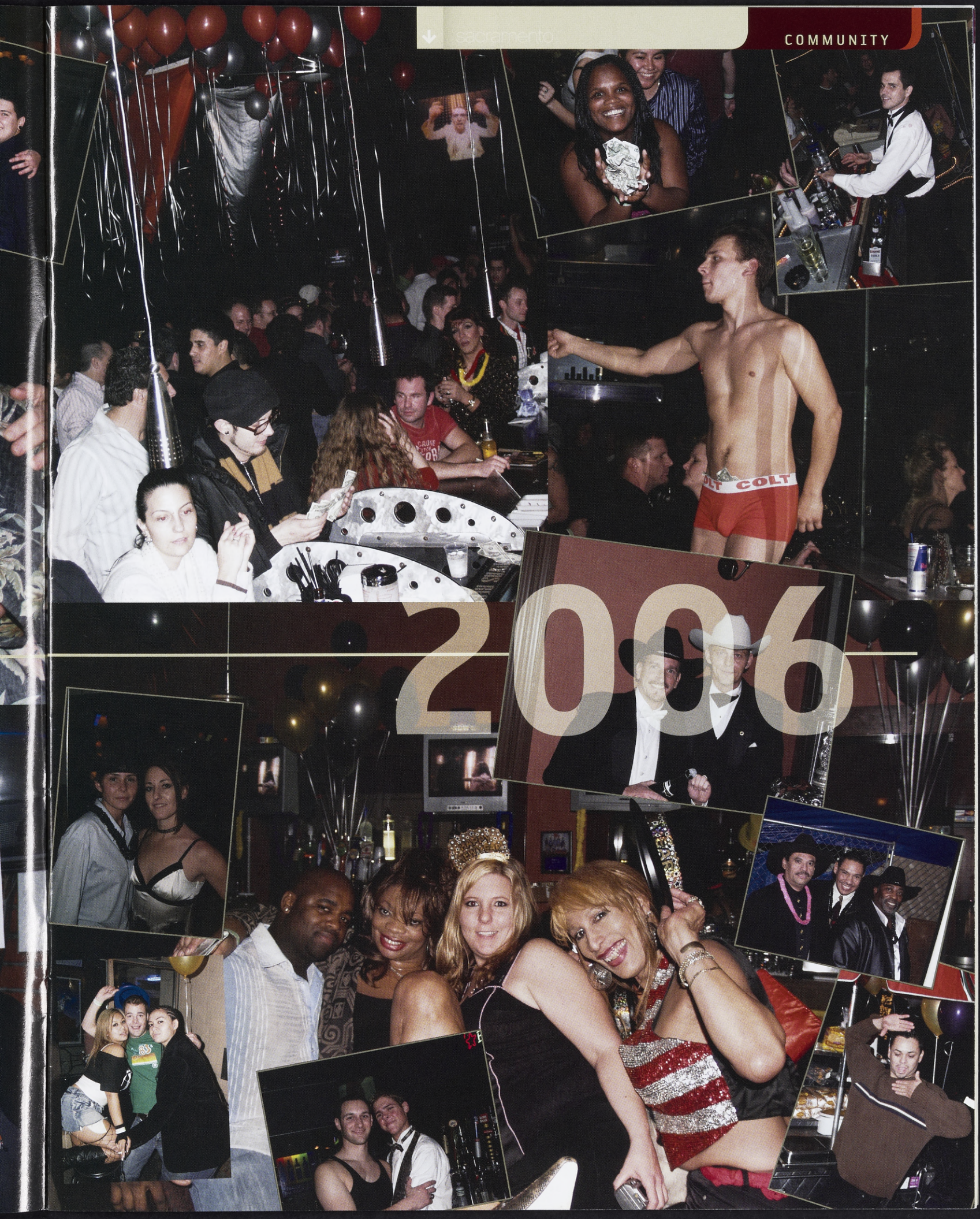
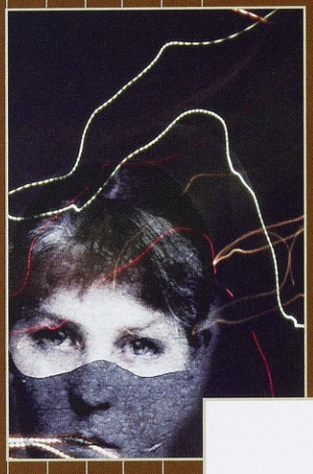
# happy new YEAR


COLT COLT
2006

# INSIDE The Asylum Walls

**ANN TRACY & ART LUNA WILL SHOWCASE A RETROSPECTIVE OF THEIR WORK THIS JANUARY AT THE ASYLUM GALLERY. THE EXHIBITION WILL FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHY IN DIFFERENT STYLES FROM BLACK AND WHITE TO DIGITAL MIXED MEDIA. BOTH ARE INNOVATORS IN THEIR CRAFT AND EARNED RESPECT IN THE ARTS COMMUNITY.**



ART BY ANN TRACY

Although he is primarily known as the owner of Luna's Café—a pillar in the Sacramento art scene—Art is an accomplished artist in many different kinds of media. He has been a photographer for the over 25 years with his work exhibited at Stanford University, the Galleria Posadam in Auburn and locations in Davis. He has also collaborated with a variety of artists. He has curated shows for Luna's Cafe, the Center for Contemporary Art, as well as other local galleries and various special exhibits for state offices.

Besides taking photos Luna enjoys writing poetry, conceptual art, and the process of conceiving an idea. He has a love for cooking, and considers it an art form. His philosophy that nutrition is the pinnacle of a healthy life transcends to Luna's Cafés menu, which is very health oriented. The café also has a wide variety of events to keep things stimulating and interesting including Thursday night Poetry Unplugged—a popular on-going event among Sacramento locals.

Luna's inspiration for his work comes from nature, "I would love to capture a volcano in full eruption, to capture nature's energy, full blown and awesome, it puts things in perspective," he says excitedly.

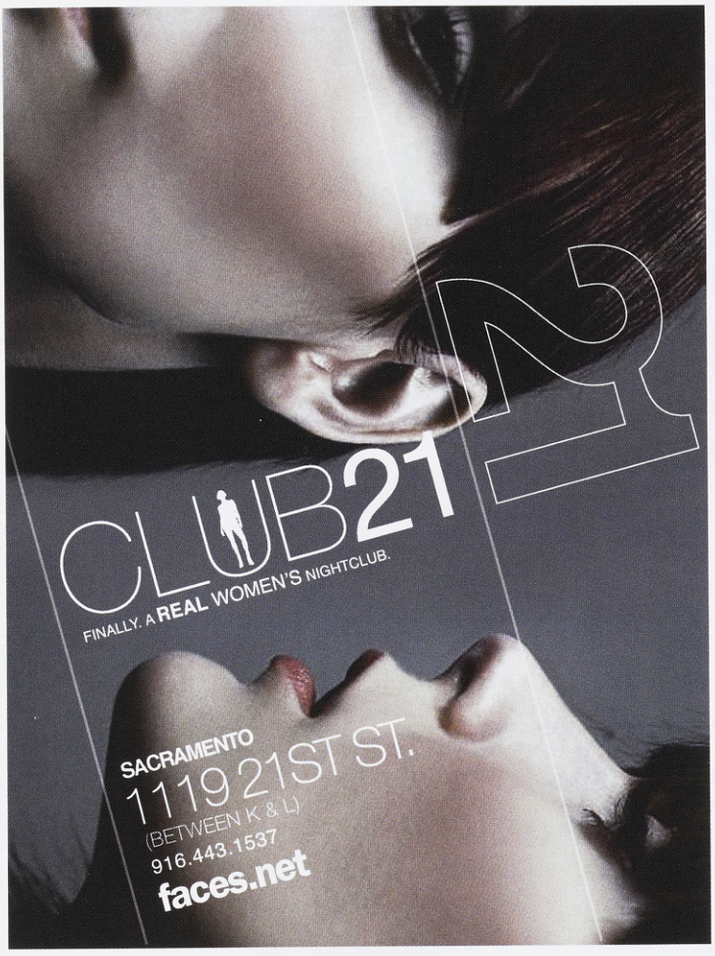
"We are molecules in the sweat of a nit on a beastie on the edge of infinity," Luna relates. With this point of view injected into his work, the show at Asylum will feature work he has not exhibited before, and work that is sure to have art lovers intrigued and wanting more.

Also exhibiting will be another artist who spends her life seeking cutting edge and the obscure. Both with her theatre company Beyond The Proscenium Productions and now with her gallery showing, Ann Tracy is an artist whose work spans diverse media. Visual artist, actress, director and playwright, to film and commercial work—Tracy's work has been seen in New York, Maui, Japan and can be found in collections in Hawaii, New York, California and Texas.

Tracy started taking photos in the 1970s, learning the art the same way she learned most of her artistic endeavors—by just doing it and growing through trial and error over the years. Tracy has a degree in liberal arts with an emphasis in theatre and communications. What's her inspiration? "Everything and sometimes nothing—very Zen, eh?" she laughs. "I always try to keep my eyes and ears open, to be in the moment. I like to work everyday as an artist, just the same way a writer writes every day or a dancer would do a class".

Her work has an energy all its own and happens sometimes by sheer accident. She has a HOLGA camera—a plastic, toy like camera that doesn't seem like it would take the astonishingly unique photos it does. This, along with her love of the unique and bizarre, separates her work from other photographers. For the show at Asylum Gallery she will exhibit digital mixed media, straight photography and some triptychs.

**Asylum Gallery is located at HQ, 1719 25th St., (25th & R Sts.) in midtown Sacramento.**
**www.geocities.com/sylumgalleryathq/**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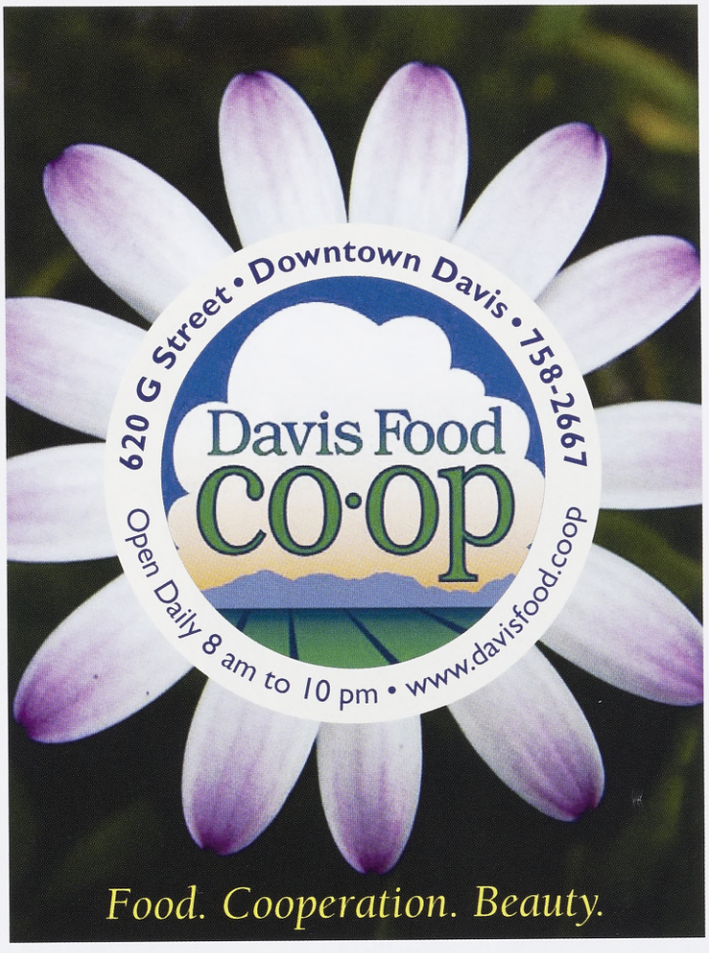
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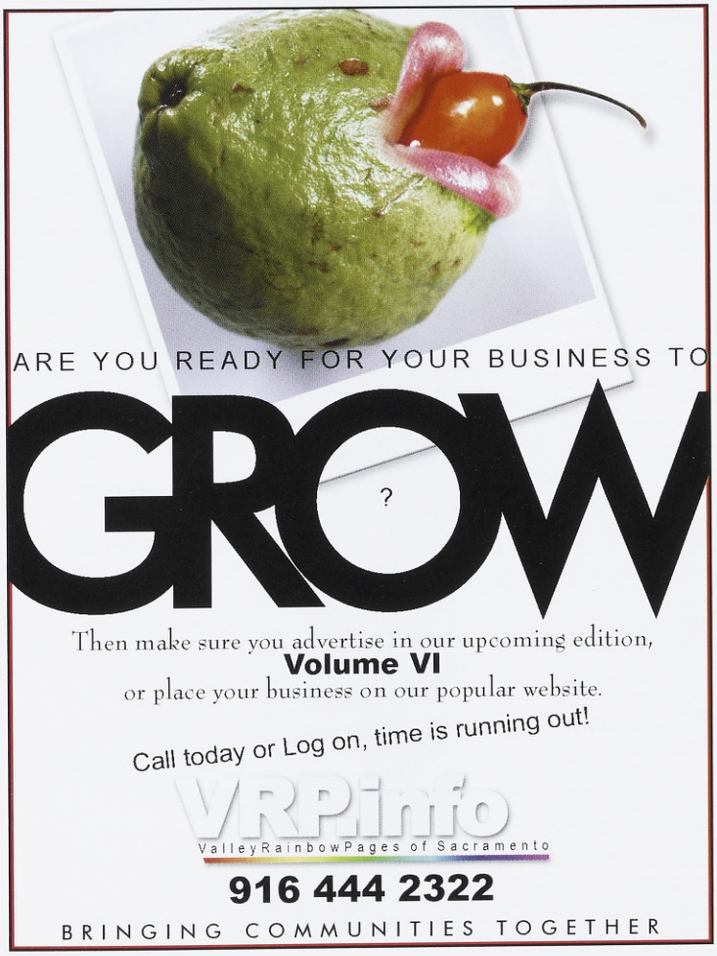
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# What Is Your Fondest Memory of 2005?

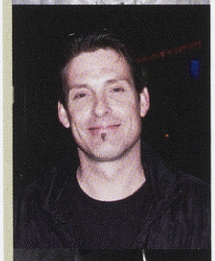
## Q AND A

by Rich Jones

"The birth of my niece, it was such a beautiful moment"

**NAME:** ADLISHA PAYNE
**CITY:** SACRAMENTO
**OCCUPATION:** EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANT

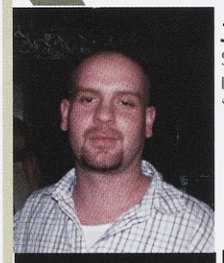
**RACHEL ODELL**
SACRAMENTO
SAVOIR OF LOST SOULS
"We struck California gold and finally bought a house. We are scraping by, but it is so very worth the title of home ownership"



**JEFFRY LITTLEFIELD**
SACRAMENTO
BARTENDER
"I have a roof over my head & food in my house. I'm grateful for all that I have"

**RAYLYNN SANDERS**
SACRAMENTO
SINGING SERVER
"Christy"

**KEVIN LEONARD**
SACRAMENTO
BUSINESS ANALYSIS
"Performing the roll of a lifetime! Hedwig!"



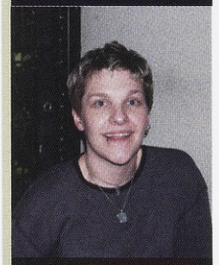
**JEFFRY DAVIS**
SOUTH NATOMAS
PUBLISHER
"The transform of MGW into the West Coast's premier newsmagazine."

**MICHAEL**
SACRAMENTO
STYLIST / ARTIST
"Moving back from San Francisco and working with the Sacramento public and directing them to current cosmetic & fashion trends that allow them to back up their game"

**DEVIN**
SACRAMENTO
OUTREACH
"July 16th I was able to read the latest installment of the Harry Potter series"

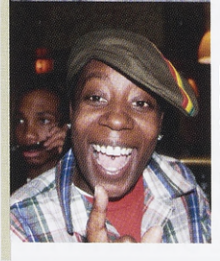
**NANCY IBBOTSON**
ELK GROVE
LMFT
"Taking my kids to Disney for their 6th birthday"

**JASON T. SMITH**
CHICO
SALES - METAL
"Finding myself & all the friends present & future that I have/ will meet"



**CHRISTY**
SACRAMENTO
ACCOUNTING
"Personal growth to power my self being into a fabulous future"

**SANDY HUYNH**
OAKLAND, CA
PACIFIC NEW CENTER
"Clubbin' & Partying"



**DERRICK STATUM**
NEW ORLEANS, LA
STUDENT
"I fell in front of my partner in the mall"

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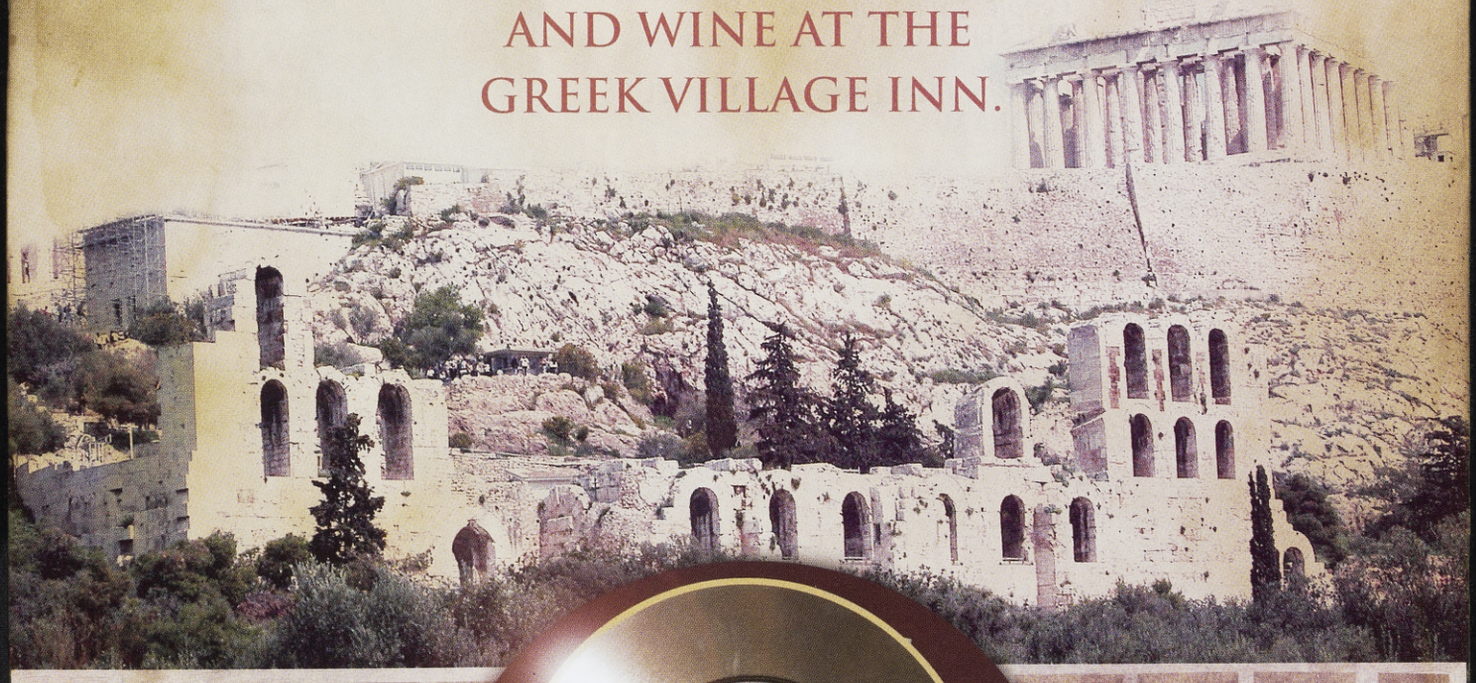

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## TOP 10

1. *Here I Come* - **TOM STEPHEN**
   SUPERCHUMBO MIX
2. *Werq!* - **MIKE DA WIZARD**
   OH NO SHE DIDN'T MIX
3. *House is Not a Home* - **DEBORAH COX**
   TONY MORAN MIX
4. *Rhythm Drives Tribal* - **DJ PAULO**
   PAULO'S DARK & DIRTY MIX
5. *Sorry* - **MADONNA**
   TEST PRESS MIXES
6. *Be Without You* - **MARY J BLIGE**
   BLANCO & MOTO VOCAL MIX
7. *People Are People* - **RUPAUL**
   GUIESEPPE D MIX
8. *Rhythm Intoxication* - **ROSABEL**
   HAVANA MIX
9. *Glory of Life* - **MINK**
   CHRIS COX ANTHEM MIX
10. *It Makes a Difference* - **KIM ENGLISH**
    TONY MORAN MIX

The New Conservatory Theatre Center's Pride Season Eleven presents Theater District. [Shown L to R: P. A. Cooley and George Quick] Photo by Lois Tema

The New Conservatory Theatre Center's Pride Season Eleven (Ties that Bind presents Theater District, a comedy drama by Richard Kramer, directed by Dennis M. Lickteig. When 16-year-old Wesley moves in with his aloof father Kenny and Kenny's doting boyfriend George, he soon gets swept away by the warm sophistication of George's bustling 46th St. "theater district" restaurant crowd. For Wesley, growing up means bursting his bubble of safety and affection, and soon he and his many parents stand in the light of their own shortcomings. A warm, wry and witty play by award-winning writer of Once and Again, thirtysomething, and My So-Called Life.

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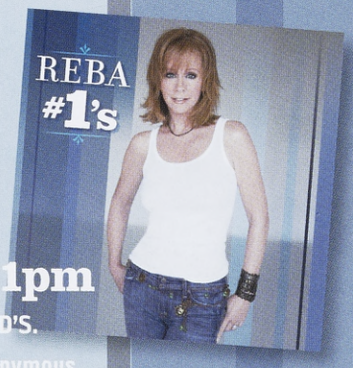


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# Cleophas AND HIS OWN

**MOVE OVER, HEATH LEDGER. IT'S MARSDEN HARTLEY'S TURN.**

With "Brokeback Mountain" and "Capote" emerging as leading Oscar contenders, it would appear that queer cinema has finally gone mainstream, a long overdue development offering encouragement to those tenacious independent filmmakers helming their own gay-themed features.

"Making this movie is the most fun I've had as a heterosexual," says first time director Michael Maglaras of his own cinematic labor of love, "Cleophas and His Own," in which Maglaras also stars as the illustrious and elusive gay artist Marsden Hartley. "Working on this project has been a two-and-a-half year journey and I feel like we're being lead around by this wonderful, long magnet connected to the soul of Marsden Hartley," says Maglaras, who will introduce a special screening of the film at 7pm at the Crest Theatre on January 28th.

In contemporary art circles, Hartley is widely recognized as a modernist master unafraid of exploring homoerotic themes in his images. However, during his lifetime, the artist struggled for acceptance both in his personal life and in his creative work. "Here we have a gay man, already in his own view an outsider," observes Maglaras. "Hartley was someone who's interior life had to, out of necessity, take over his external life because of his loneliness, his great depth of spirit and his longing for love and companionship at a time when it was very difficult to be a gay man."

These powerful themes form the undercurrent of "Cleophas and His Own," an ambitious adaptation of a posthumously published poem that Hartley composed in 1940. The artist penned his confessional ode while mourning the tragic deaths of two brothers he had become amorously obsessed with. In 1935, the nearly 60-year-old Hartley had discovered a surrogate family in the form of the Francis Mason clan of Nova Scotia. As reflected in his paintings, Hartley became intensely attracted to Mason's two ruggedly handsome sons, Alton and Donald (rechristened Adelard and Etienne in Hartley's poetic tribute).

"If you stop and look at the paintings and poems created post September 1936, there is an undeniable obsession with this family going on," Maglaras says. "It also reflects a positive, wonderful obsession with Adelard, with whom Hartley was deeply in love." Casting an actor in the pivotal role of Adelard proved daunting until Maglaras and his wife, executive producer Terri Templeton, spotted the perfect specimen in the strapping form of newcomer Michael Roberge.

"I was waiting for a seat at this busy diner in Stamford, Connecticut," Roberge recalls, "All of a sudden, this strange man with wild, gray hair, more layers of clothing than I could count and an abundance of confidence came up to me and asked if I had ever done any acting." Months later, Roberge found himself stripping off his shirt in a testosterone drenched backwashing sequence that has become an indisputable crowd pleaser. "I laugh hysterically every time I see that scene," Roberge confesses. "Unfortunately, it hasn't resulted in any indecent proposals from either sex...Though a 60 year-old woman, upon leaving the premiere in Maine, offered to wash my back whenever needed."

Once casting was complete, Maglaras, Tempelton and director of photography Geoffrey Leighton began the formidable task of sorting through hundreds of Hartley images before choosing 24 eye-catching originals that would appear during key scenes. "This is a very exciting project in that the photography had to evoke the time period around Hartley's death yet also had to serve as a visual frame around the many Hartley paintings we used in the film," says Leighton who photographed the main narrative in black and white and only allowed vibrant burts of color onscreen whenever a Hartley image is glimpsed.

Since the film's well-received premiere earlier this year in Hartley's hometown of Lewiston, Maine, Maglaras has screened "Cleophas" in selected venues throughout New England and has garnered some rapturous reviews along the way. Maglaras and Templeton are now looking forward to introducing the film to West Coast audiences. "We are delighted to be showing "Cleophas and His Own" in Sacramento, particularly in conjunction with the wonderful and important retrospective at the Crocker Art Museum," Maglaras says. Hartley's alter ego believes that although the painter was born in 1877, his unconventional, rebellious spirit will win him many modern supporters. "As mensches go, Hartley is the ultimate gay mensch," Maglaras says. "As an artist, poet, man of the world, deep spirit, here was someone, who generally speaking, didn't give a rat's ass about what the world thought of him. He is an example to us all - gay or straight - and he is a mensch for all seasons."

"Cleophas and His Own" will be presented at 7pm at the Crest Theatre in Sacramento thecrest.com and on January 30 at 7pm at Embarcadero Center Cinema in San Francisco landmarktheatres.com.

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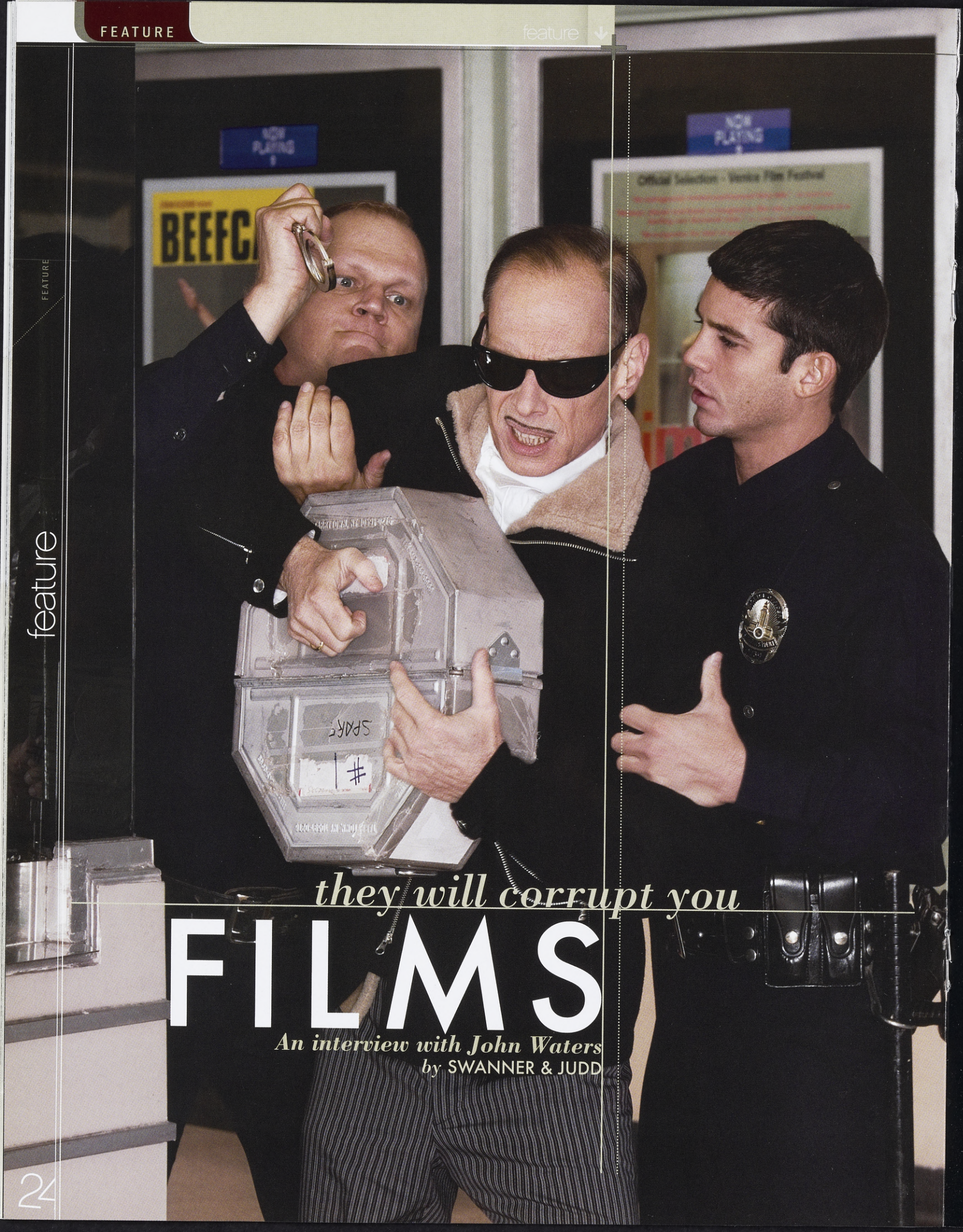
"Cleophas and His Own" will be presented at 7pm at the Crest Theatre in Sacramento thecrest.com and on January 30 at 7pm at Embarcadero Center Cinema in San Francisco landmarktheatres.com.

*by Mark Griffin*




*they will corrupt you*

# FILMS

*An interview with John Waters*

*by* SWANNER & JUDD

*When cult film director John Waters gets his own series you know that either this country is changing for the better or we have seen one of the signs of the apocalypse. Either way you look at it John Waters does have a new film series on the "here" network called "Films the will corrupt you". Brian and I talked with John Waters about the new series, movies, Divine and even found out how many Christmas Cards he sends out each year. Hope you enjoy the interview as much as we did.*

SWANNER: I'm Tom Swanner with Mom Guess What Newsmagazine in Sacramento and I'm with Brian Judd, who is my co-writer.

JUDD: Hello.

WATERS: Sacramento? That's where Squeaky Fromme was from, right? And there was another one, too…Sarah Jane Moore?

SWANNER: …And Dorothy Puente

WATERS: Oh, she's got a cookbook! I have it.

JUDD: I lived down the street from her house!

WATERS: Really? They didn't bulldoze it or anything?

SWANNER: No, it's so infamous that I don't think they'll tear it down.

WATERS: Did they fry her, I forget.

SWANNER: She's in jail.

WATERS: Well I know she's in jail!

SWANNER: No, she's still alive. We're in California. They don't kill anyone for 30-40 years.

WATERS: I'm glad they don't. I'm afraid it will happen to me when I'm there!

JUDD: Well, let's get this thing started. With everything that's happened this year, with two more years of the Bush Administration, the war in Iraq, what I'd really like to know—what do you think of the breakup between Jessica Simpson and Nick Lechay? Are you devastated?

WATERS: I don't even know who they are!

JUDD: OH MY GOD!

SWANNER: We're so happy you said that!

WATERS: I know their faces from all the tabloids, but I don't know—is she a singer? I know one of them has a total dumbbell boyfriend, and I think he has that horrible Bo Derek hairdo. I have a picture of him hanging up with little arrows pointing out all his deficiencies. But I really don't know who she is either.

SWANNER: Well, she's really not someone to know.

WATERS: Well, I know that they're singers, but I really don't listen to their station. I might have heard their music, but I never realized it.

JUDD: It all sounds the same.

WATERS: I don't know enough to hate her; I just don't read the articles about her.

SWANNER: I guess the first thing that's really interesting is that the man that played midnight movies and in people's living rooms now has his own TV series.

WATERS: When these movies where made there were no midnight movies being made, but they could have been midnight movies. It's kind of ironic that I have a television show and five years ago I would have been put in jail for showing these films on television.

JUDD: Of the movies that you picked a lot of them are foreign, and a lot of them are French, and a lot of them are really obscure. Even on IMDB there are only three or four comments per film. How did you find these movies?

WATERS: I saw every one of these movies in the theatre when they came out. And I wanted to pick movies that most people didn't know. But they're all well reviewed. They all got really great reviews and really terrible reviews. None of these movies had any middle of the road reviews, certainly. Most of them were reviewed well. Fuego was a big sex-ploatation film from the Spanish community in the 70s. I used to go see all Armando Bo—he made about 20 movies with his mistress Isabel Sarli and she looks exactly like Divine in Female Trouble—only not fat. So I was obsessed with his film, I even have the Spanish book "The Films of Armando Bo And Isabel Sarli". Some of the episodes you'll see my monologue in the beginning of each one where I explain each [film] and do a fairly lunatic monologue before each one and a wrap up at the end. So I wanted to pick movies that were extreme in all outsider communities, but good movies—I think that they're all really good movies but one's that you probably didn't know about. It's the same way that I listen to oldies station. I don't want to listen to oldies that I'm sick of and heard 50 times. I like the ones that I never knew existed.

JUDD: Whenever I watch your movies I'm always enraptured with the music that is in them.

WATERS: Thank you and I try to use the same principle with this. Doing a soundtrack is curating. This is curating a movie festival. So I tried to pick movies that I really would show if you came over to my house. Also in order to get laid!

JUDD: So I guess a follow up to that would be that these are extreme movies. Were these movies considered as scandalous in the countries that they came out in?

WATERS: Well, Freeway came out in America and it really wasn't noticed that much. It was only a hit in one city and that was SF. L.I.E. got a lot of sprit award nominations, but it's about a nice pedophile and it certainly ticked people off. Fuego was banned even in its own country, Argentina. Baxter is an S&M French dog movie it got great reviews in NY, but few people saw it. The Fluffer is a gay movie about a gay guy that falls in love with a straight porn star. Clean Shaven is an extreme art movie about schizophrenia, and it was very well reviewed, but it's not an easy movie to sit through. Beefcake, I saw at Sundance and it's sort of the least—It's sort of a docudrama about Bob Mizer who invented male pin-up photography. Criminal Lovers is by Francois Ozon and it's a retelling of the Hansel & Gretel story told with a gay Ogre that falls in love with Hansel. The Hours and Times is a fictitious movie about the Beatles' manager falling in love with John Lennon. Pink Narcissus is a notorious underground poem—a masturbatory poem. Who Killed Pasolini is a little seen, but a very well done documentary about a hustler and Pasolini who was murdered by him. Porn Theatre is a beautiful French movie about the daily melodrama in a heterosexual porn theatre in Paris with gay people in the audience having sex. And Irreversible is the notorious, beautifully made, really strong, powerful movie about rape.

SWANNER: Now which of these are your personal favorites?

WATERS: All of them. I mean these are the ones picked and I certainly wouldn't invite you over to see Irreversible on the first date.

SWANNER: I work for a video distributor here in town and they didn't want to sell Irreversible because if the 10 minute rape scene.

WATERS: Well, it's the best digital movie ever made because all he did was take things OUT digitally. He took out all the mic shadows, all the microphones, and he only added one thing. One penis. The rape scene, which is incredibly powerful, is 10 minutes long, but it's really made up of many, many shots seamlessly put together.

JUDD: What was your initial reaction to the network approaching you to do this?

WATERS: Basically I thought it was a great idea and I said yes to it instantly, and came up with the movies and I held off a little on some of the more extreme choices to see how for I could go and I think they realized about half way, "Let's do it. Our competition is Logo and they can't show anything so let's show everything!"

SWANNER: So why no John Waters films?

WATERS: Oh because... Everybody's seen them!

SWANNER: I'm still trying to get Multiple Maniacs.

WATERS: We're working on a couple music rights problems on that. But basically, I wouldn't pick my own movies. The same way that if you came over to my house I wouldn't show you my movies. Only Barbra Streisand would do that!

JUDD: We kind of opened with this, and most of your fans know that you're into true crime and grizzly murders and all that—

WATERS: STOP THAT! That's not totally true, I'm not into it. I used to go to trials of great trauma and I made two movies from that experience, Female Trouble and Serial Mom. I taught in prison for a long time. I believe in the rehabilitation of people. I do have friends in prison. I'm interested in the subject, but I'm certainly not for it!

JUDD: No, no one is accusing you of that!

WATERS: I believe that people can get better—mostly.

JUDD: The reason that I ask is that my grandmother loves that stuff, too. I was wondering if there was any particular book that was extremely just grizzly and gory—maybe features dismemberment—that I could get her for a belated Xmas present?

WATERS: Well, I'm big on "Womb Raiders". These are women that pretend they're pregnant and then when it's time to have the baby they don't know what to tell their husbands so they follow pregnant women and cut the baby out of them. There's this one called "Lullaby and Good Night" and that's where she cut the baby out with her car keys in the parking lot of a mall when the poor woman came back. And the baby lived and she took it home!

JUDD: And that's true?

WATERS: Yes.

JUDD: Oh my god!

WATERS: It's either called "Hush Little Baby" or "Lullaby and Goodnight"—both about "womb raiders" but I forget which is which.

SWANNER: Since Brian brought up Christmas, what does John Waters do for Christmas?

WATERS: Well just I just did a 10-city Christmas tour, a spoken word act. And I just put out an album of bizarre Christmas carols, so I just came back from a Christmas tour for all of December.

SWANNER: Do you have famous people that you put on your Christmas list?

WATERS: I do. Yeah. I send out a card every year. I sent out 1700 of them, and I hand signed every one, and I get 1701 in return.

JUDD: Did you send Don Knotts anything?

WATERS: Did I? I didn't. I used to have his address, and I always asked him for dates which made him nervous. I don't think I have his address anymore.

JUDD: I did a little cross referencing of quotes of yours and you had said that, "A celebrity is someone you either want to get drunk with or have sex with." And then, of course in your commentary for Serial Mom you had said you have a crush on Don Knotts and I was just wondering…which is it? Do you want to get drunk with him or have sex with him?

***It's not a tease, I just think it's bad luck to talk about something before you do it. You gotta talk about it after you did it for three years, so I think you really shouldn't talk about it. I think it curses the project to talk about it. It's like trying to get pregnant, you don't tell people.***

WATERS: Sex.

JUDD: Well, alright!

SWANNER: One thing that I was curious about do you ever hear people quoting your movies?

WATERS: Oh, God yes. One time I was picked up at this speaking engagement and he would only speak to me in my dialogue for 24 hours. It was funny for about 10 minutes, but I wanted to strangle him at breakfast.

SWANNER: I know that it's become a significant part of my life. I just broke up and I tell people that I'm going to wash away the stench of an 11-year marriage.

WATERS: That's good. I'm happy for that.

SWANNER: I love your dialogue.

WATERS: It's a shock. One day I was walking down the street and someone walked by and said "Pig fucker" and I love that. Another time I was in a club and a woman walked up to me and said "I can't wait to get an abortion." And I thought, "Who is this?" and then I realized that I wrote that dialogue. I didn't even realize that it was my own dialogue! I've got some strange woman saying to me, "I can't wait to get an abortion," and I thought "Weirdo" and then I thought, "Stupid! You wrote that!"

JUDD: Since Tom told us his relationship status, I've never heard you say that you have a partner/lover/husband/boyfriend—pick your term.

WATERS: I certainly have, but I have friends that I talk to them—not journalists.

JUDD: OK. Alright. I see.

WATERS: And I'm not attracted to people that want to be in magazines.

JUDD: Right. Well, do you have a partner?

WATERS: Not at this moment, I don't. But I certainly have.

SWANNER: What were your favorite movies from last year? Or even television?

WATERS: Television would be harder because I only watched The Wire. What movies did I like last year? I liked Last Days. I liked both Woody Allen's movies. I liked Head On. I liked Innocence, by this woman named Lucille and she has this long last name and she's the wife of Gapar Noe, who made "Irreversible". I liked History of Violence a lot. I liked Grizzly Man, Brokeback Mountain, The Aristocrats, Mysterious Skin—those would be the top ones right off.

SWANNER: No King Kong or Harry Potter?

WATERS: I didn't see either. I didn't even like the first two King Kongs.

JUDD: You weren't missing anything, believe me.

WATERS: Special effects are a science project not movies.

JUDD: With these new actresses and actors coming up, is there any that you'd like to see cast in one of your upcoming films?

WATERS: Oh I don't know. I like the kid that was in thumbsucker a lot.

SWANNER: Does John Waters have any projects coming up film-wise?

WATERS: I do, but it's certainly not OK to talk about them yet.

SWANNER: Oh, such a tease!

WATERS: It's not a tease, I just think it's bad luck to talk about something before you do it. You gotta talk about it after you did it for three years, so I think you really shouldn't talk about it. I think it curses the project to talk about it. It's like trying to get pregnant, you don't tell people.

*SWANNER: OK, we know that you like larger than life ladies, and now that Kirstie Alley has lost all that weight, do you see anyone filling Divine's shoes?*

*WATERS: Well, I would never look for anyone to fill Divine's shoes. That's why I made one with Johnny Depp right afterward, I probably would never use a man playing a woman again. Only because it would seem disrespectful to Divine's* memory. No one could replace Divine, so I don't look.

JUDD: I think that Sharon Gless or Tyne Daly might work.

WATERS: You know I have certainly done the "big girl" movie and I have the "big girl" play. I certainly made Marissa Jaret Winokur a star again. I made a lot of people stars with that part of Tracy. So basically, I'm really proud of those roles, but it's a point I've already made.

SWANNER: How did you like working with Kathleen Turner?

WATERS: I loved it. I just saw Kathleen recently she gave me this award at this AIDS organization called TAG in NY. I love her I think she's a great actress. I think she's brilliant on stage this year in Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?

SWANNER: Was it tough to get someone like her at her point in career?

WATERS: You know what happens, always when they read the scripts I have to get to them right away and feel out the stuff they might be uptight about and explain how we're going to do it and calm their fears. And I don't' blame them for being nervous. But no, she wanted to be in it right away and these days if you don't have a star you're not going to get green-lit. You have to find somebody to attach the project to. It's harder if it's a woman, because they don't believe that any women are movie stars. A Dirty Shame was green-lit completely because Johnny

Knoxville was in it. They're looking for "heat" which they need, somebody that has been in a hit movie with young people in the last six months. If Katherine Hepburn came back from the grave she wouldn't get a call.

JUDD: I personally think you hit pay dirt with Johnny Knoxville. I think he has what would be your term, "Good Bad Taste."

WATERS: Johnny is a great guy. I love him. He's a great guy and we're still friends. He's incredibly funny and gay friendly and he couldn't be better. AND I think he's a great actor too. I think he's got a great future ahead of him.

SWANNER: I happen to be one of the founding members of the Sacramento Valley Bears, and so --

WATERS: Johnny is obsessed by bears. He has tattoos that say "Grrr," and stuff.

SWANNER: When I saw that you had added the bear characters in A Dirty Shame I thought it was so hilarious. Have you had any bad feeling from bear groups?

WATERS: No, but I've done a lot of interviews with bear magazines and some of them seem to be so straight about it. They say "we've come out of the second closet to our parents," And I was like "you told your parents you're a bear?!?!?"

SWANNER: You would not believe the obsession with some of these groups.

WATERS: I understand these parents, "OK I understand you're gay." And then you sit down and you say, "I have something else to tell you. I'm a bear." "A WHAT?!?!?" It seems like a good comedy scene. And then you can explain, "This is my significant 'otter'". I mean I'm for it, but I'm always amazed that some bears don't have a sense of humor about it. It's hard to be a bear without a sense of humor, I think.

SWANNER: I go to friend's houses and its all bear. They've got a bear couch and a bear skin floor.

WATERS: They call that a DEN, RIGHT? All their fag-hags are called Goldilocks.

SWANNER: Oh, I haven't heard that before. That's hilarious.

WATERS: I'm all for it, but I'm always amazed at how serious everyone is about this sexual kind of thing. The sexual community...I'm just amazed that some of them don't think it's funny.

JUDD: I think it's just the obsession with the label.

WATERS: All straight middle aged men are bears—they just don't know it! My brother-in-laws are bears, but they don't know it.

SWANNER: Obviously you've seen a ton of foreign films. Is it an art community in Baltimore?

WATERS: It's a good town for movies. Yes, definitely.

SWANNER: Because Sacramento has one theatre—

WATERS: A Landmark theatre?

SWANNER: Yes, very good.

WATERS: All we have in Baltimore are five theatres. One where I filmed Cecil B Demented styled like Radio City Music hall. We have The Charles, an art theater with six cinemas. We have the rotunda which is a twin art cinema. And then we have two working porn theatres. That's it. There are no other movie theaters in all the city of Baltimore.

SWANNER: Really? What's the population?

WATERS: Big. I don't know, about 700,000. We used to have fifty theaters, but now it's basically porn or art.

JUDD: It's obvious that you love Baltimore and you're never going to leave—

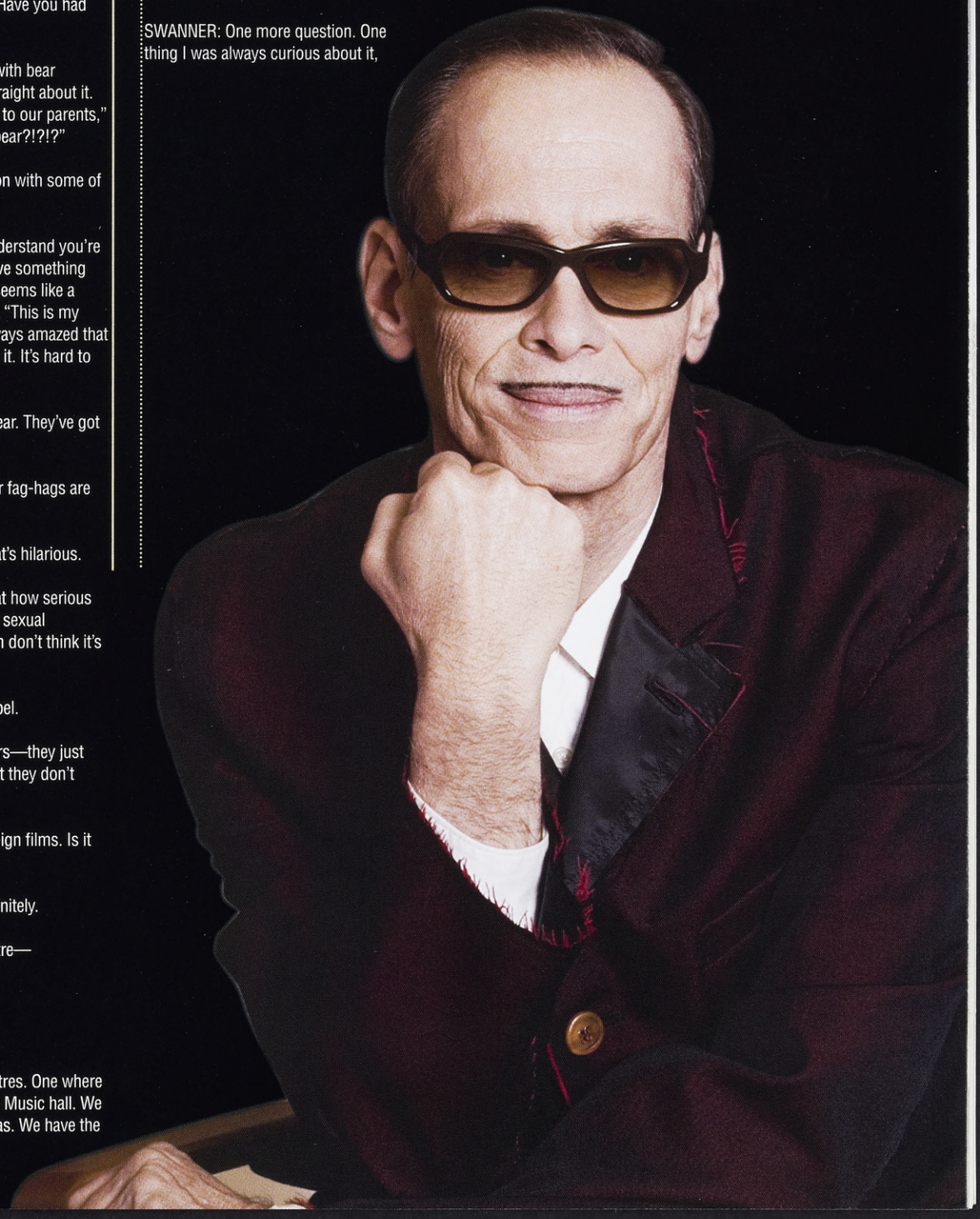
WATERS: I'm away a lot, that's why I love it. If I lived here 52 weeks a year, I might be in prison. My home is here, I love it here. I really live in airports. I have an apartment in NY and I live in Province Town in the summer. But my office and my house is in Baltimore. It's certainly my home and I come here whenever I need to be inspired.

SWANNER: One more question. One thing I was always curious about it, what do you think that Divine would feel about how popular and what an icon you and she have become?

WATERS: Well, he would be happy dead with more money alive. You know, it's always so bittersweet when they say "The Greatest Drag Queen Ever" and I remember they didn't write that when he was alive. It would have been nice if he could've seen that when he was alive. He did see some—he got great reviews when Hairspray opened, he just DIED three days later. Basically he'd be proud and he'd be very happy, I think. He'll certainly be remembered. He may even be more famous today than he was when he was alive. But I'd rather him be alive and less famous.

SWANNER: Well, thank you John and good luck with your upcoming project.

WATERS: Thank you. Cook me something from Dorothy's cookbook! Bye.



Nothing makes the pulse of skiers and snowboarders race quite like the words “first tracks” - arcing huge, fat turns across a vast canvas of untouched snow. Thanks to the most developed and regulated helicopter and snowcat skiing industry in the world, British Columbia stands alone when it comes to delivering ‘powder to the people’. BC-based adventure skiers not only pioneered helicopter and snowcat vacations, they have continuously improved and refined ski vacation options to offer something for everyone.

# *powder* dreams

## WHERE POWDER DREAMS ARE FULFILLED – HELICOPTER AND SNOWCAT SKIING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

by Steven Threndyle

travel

photos: courtesy of Mike Wiegele Helicopter Skiing

On the helicopter skiing front, everyone has heard of the big guys – Mike Wiegele Helicopter Skiing, near Blue River, BC, and Canadian Mountain Holidays (CMH), which operates twelve lodges situated throughout the province. Mike Wiegele and CMH began their operations at about the same time. In 1965, Austrian-Canadian mountain guide Hans Gmoser first used helicopters to explore the Bugaboo mountain range in the heart of the BCRockies. In 1968, Gmoser's Canadian Mountain Holidays started taking guests into its new lodge for multi-day ski trips. Two years later, Mike Wiegele, yet another Austrian ex-patriot, began flying guests into the Cariboo and Monashee ranges on both sides of the Yellowhead Highway. The early days of helicopter skiing were truly primal – guests often stayed in communal bunks or in winterized trailers at the end of remote logging roads. But both men persevered, and word soon got out that helicopter skiing was 'the ultimate' skiing experience – attracting everyone from European royalty to former Olympic legends.

A decade after Gmoser and Wiegele started their famous rivalry for the hearts (and wallets) of powder hounds, Allan and Brenda Drury utilized slope maintenance machines (snowcats) to access virgin powder in a remote corner of the Selkirk Mountains. Now in its 31st year, Selkirk Wilderness Skiing is at the forefront of an industry that is growing steadily every year and attracting clients from around the globe.

While Mike Wiegele, Canadian Mountain Holidays, and Selkirk Wilderness Skiing have continued to be leaders in their field, they've been joined in the ensuing three decades by more than 30 helicopter and snowcat companies. These organizations utilize a vast canvas of glaciers, meadows, glades and snow slopes that is limited only by the ability (and weather conditions) of a helicopter to fly, or a snowcat to access. They are truly dream merchants – providing one of the best skiing experiences in the entire world.

Super-fat powder skis and snowboards have taken a lot of the pain from skiing untracked snow conditions. If you're a competent intermediate skier at a downhill ski area and arrive in good physical condition, you will thoroughly enjoy powder skiing. CMH and Mike Wiegele Helicopter Skiing have numerous introductory packages to make first-timers feel at home. These companies specialize in putting powder skiing within reach of the weekend warrior.

So, what does it take to sign up for the 'trip of a lifetime'?

For those who are looking to sample backcountry slopes before committing to a week-long adventure, heli-ski and snowcat operations can be found close to some of BC's best known downhill resorts such as Sun Peaks Resort (Backcountry Cat Adventures), Panorama, (RK Heliski), Red Mountain, (Big Red Cats) Whistler-Blackcomb, (Whistler Heli-Skiing, Blackcomb Powder Cats), Powder Springs (CAT Powder Skiing), and Fernie Alpine Resort (Powder Cowboy Cat Skiing, Island Lake Lodge). At Whitewater near Nelson, five-day packages combine lift skiing at the mountain with snowcat and even helicopter skiing at Valhalla Powdercats.

For more advanced skiers, several new operators are pushing the limits in terms of wild, previously un-skied terrain and are further re-defining the 'ultimate adventure'. A new trend is to match small groups of more hard-core skiers and riders with huge, challenging terrain. The action here is in riding powdery 'pillow-lines' (snow covered rocks that are skied or ridden like a staircase) or straight-lining heart-stopping couloirs.

Whistler-based Sea to Sky Helisports and Megayacht Adventures utilizes the MV Absinthe, a 201 ft. long 'mega yacht' to ferry skiers up remote fjords and inlets into BC's Coast Range. The 'yacht' has its own helicopter pad and skiers are whisked off the boat and taken to remote, never-before skied runs tucked into the Coast Range. Pantheon Helisports is based deep in BC's Cariboo Chilcotin Coast region. This region gets significantly drier weather and better powder than the ranges to the west, and is so new that many runs have never been skied before. Located in the wild Coast Range near Tweedsmuir Provincial Park, Bella Coola Heli Sports has been featured in several A-list ski videos with footage starring the best freeskiers and riders in the world. For snowboarders, there's Baldface Mountain Lodge near Nelson BC – a cat-boarding operation that has just opened six luxurious new chalets for its guests this winter – skiers need not worry, they're welcome too. In the MonasheeRange, skiers and riders can choose from two snowcat operators – Mustang Powder on the Mustang glacier (in the Anstey range of the Monashees) and Monashee Powder Snowcats, just east of Silver Star Mountain Resort. Mustang Powder specializes in above-treeline skiing and boasts 200 kilometers of cat roads. Now in its fourth season, Mica Heli Skiing (north of Revelstoke) is operated by Dan McDonald, who created the legendary Island Lake Lodge near Fernie. Plunging down powder-caked boulders is what this area of the Rockies is best known for. Two operations are combining both heli and snowcat skiing this winter as well. Snowwater Heli Skiing in the west Kootenays also offers snowcat skiing in case bad weather grounds the helicopter, while Chatter Creek snowcat skiing near Golden is adding helicopter skiing to its already extensive menu of great powder skiing.

Travelers may want to note that prime weeks (mid-January to mid-March) fill up quickly. One alternative is to delay your trip until March or April, when the price is often substantially reduced. These longer spring days have just as much powder (skiing on north-facing aspects), while stable weather often brings sunnier 'bluebird' skies.

**For more on British Columbia's destinations and travel information, call 1-800 *HELLO BC*® (North America) or visit www.*HelloBC*.com**

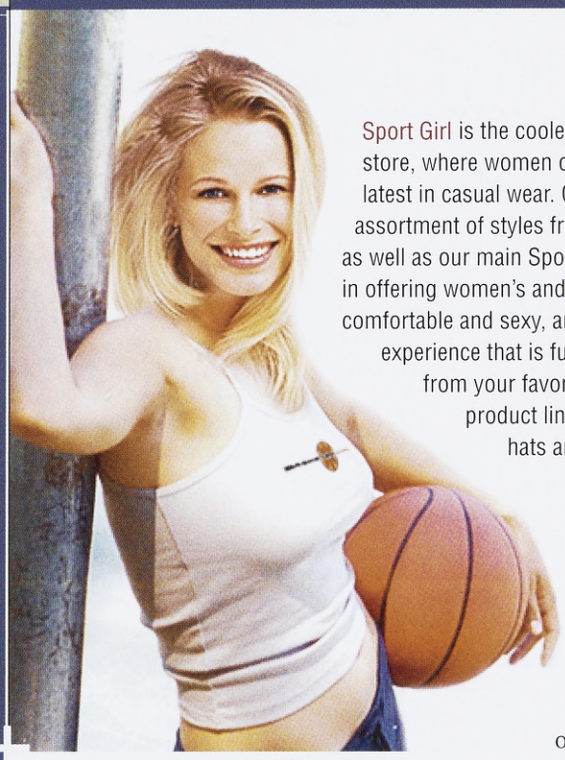
Canadian Mountain Holidays
(800)661-0252
www.canadianmountainholidays.com

Mike Wiegele Helicopter Skiing
(800)661-9170
www.wiegele.com

Selkirk Wilderness Skiing
(250)366-4424
www.selkirkwilderness.com

A complete list of BC helicopter skiing operators can be found at the website of the BC Helicopter and Snowcat Skiing Operators Association.

www.bchssoa.com



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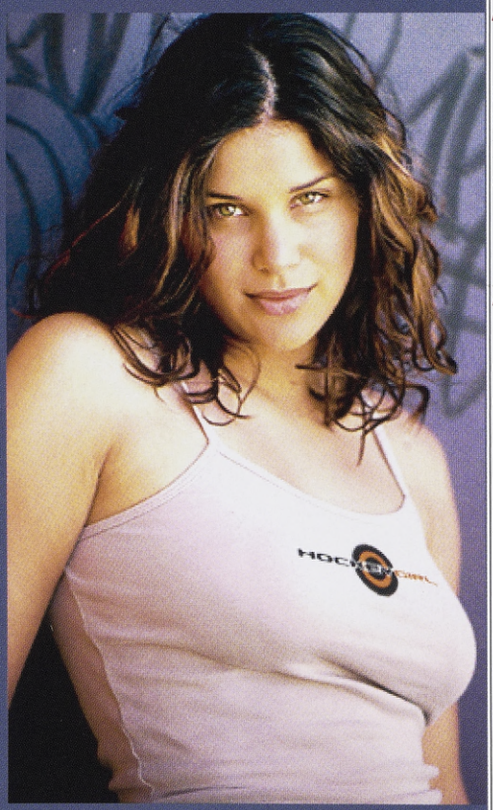

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momGuesswhat

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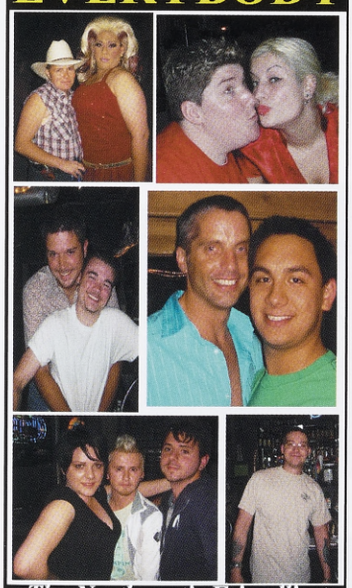

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# aleksa asks?

## IS DRAG NO LONGER RELEVANT?

2006 IS FINALLY UPON US! BETWEEN PARTY CRASHING AND BAR HOPPING, I HAD TO ASK... IN THE AGE OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ACTIVISM, FROM STONEWALL THROUGH THE AIDS EPIDEMIC, IS DRAG NO LONGER RELEVANT? WITH DWINDLING DRAG REVUES AND POORLY ATTENDED DRAG EVENTS, IS DRAG TRULY DEAD?

"Drag has evolved. It is evolving into the 21st century."
- - RANDY SCHLAGER, DJ- POWER MIX C89.5

"Because it's history & tradition, it's alive; we just need to bring this out."
- - SHELLEY DENTON,
WASHINGTON STATE MS. LEATHER 2005

"Drag has died since the 70's. It hasn't re-grown since then."
- - SUNI DAE,
CO PRODUCER- THOSE FABULOUS FAKES

"Drag is not dead. Not in this house."
- - VICTOR THOMPSON,
BUSINESS MANAGER- TOYOTA LAKE CITY

"We have a whole new generation, regardless of orientation. Pioneers need to educate, nurture and help them grow."
- - CHRISTINE HIEB,
SECURITY

"Drag queens host & attend fundraisers. Who else is going to do that?"
- - ROBERTO PARRA,
RESTAURANT MANAGER

Latino culture is very rich in history and tradition. LGBT Latino culture is even more colorful and festive! Every Sunday, Neighbours Nightclub is host to "Noche Latino" (Latino Night) where the who's who socialize in mass. If you're lucky, every first and third Sundays, La Gorda, lovingly called "Gordis" by her friends and fans, is Mistress of Ceremonies, where she features celebrities, drag performers and live singers from Seattle, Yakima and Portland to California, Mexico and South America.

This fantastic event is sponsored by Entre Hermanos, a local non-profit organization that provides assistance and support to the LGBT Latino Community of Seattle. A mere $5 donation at the door provides you access to drinks, dancing and revelry.

If you want your salsa, extra HOT! Then come to Noche Latino with resident DJ Luis every Sunday at Neighbours Nightclub, located at 1509 Broadway. For more information on Entre Hermanos Agency, please visit entrehermanos.org or call 206.322.7700.

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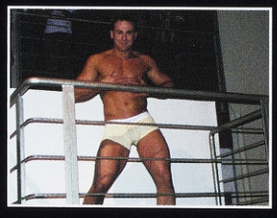
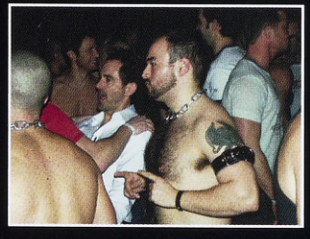
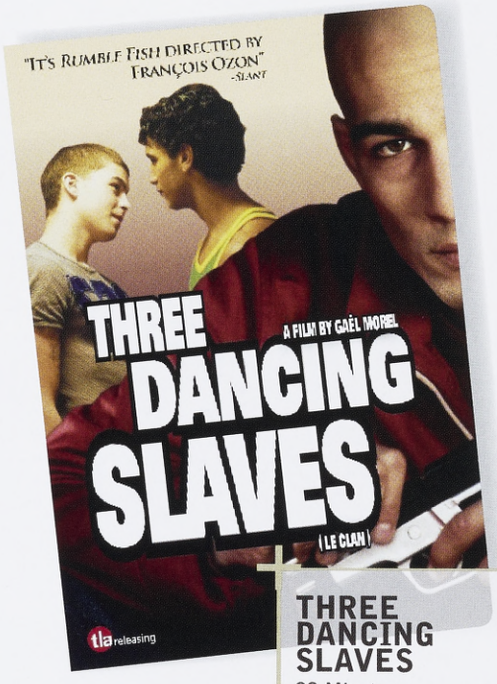
# NYE 2006 SEATTLE

# VANCOUVER NYE 2006



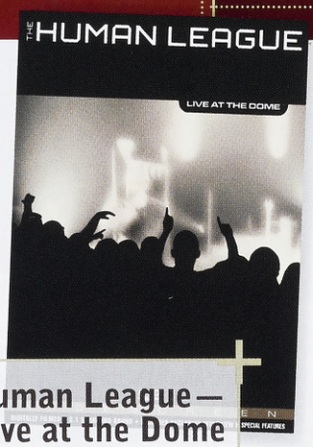





**THREE DANCING SLAVES**
99 Minutes
$24.99
TLA Releasing

Set in France along the Swiss border, Three Dancing Slaves is the study of three young brothers desperately searching for emotional guidance as they face the onset of adulthood. They can't turn to their parents: their mother has recently died, and their father is distant and ineffectual. As boys they had been close to each other, and they long to maintain those childlike bonds; one scene where they revisit their childhood by sleeping together in the nude is both searingly erotic and sweetly naïve. As they become men, though, they are unable to adjust their relationships.

# THE DVD shelf

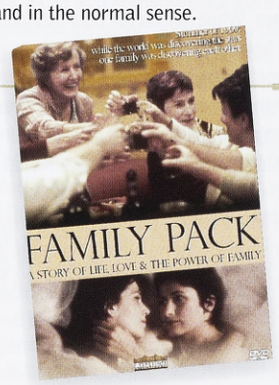



This live DVD - filmed in Brighton in December – marks the climax to their hugely successful '03 tour. It can't be called a comeback tour: media exposure of them and their music – in clever car commercials or television rockumentaries - guarantees that the Human League will never lose profile. After all their brand of synth-pop was the sound of the 1980s. "Listening to the Human League, is like listening to 1980!" These words came from David Bowie in 1979, a year or so before Jo Catherall, Susanne Sulley and the big hits all materialized. The Human League that Bowie referred to was a futuristic synth, vocals and slide-show experience, not a band in the normal sense.

**Human League—Live at the Dome**
180 Minutes
$19.95
Music Video Distributors/Secret Films

The Great Water begins when Lem Nikodinoski, an elderly Macedonian politician, suffers a heart attack and is rushed to the hospital. As doctors frantically treat him, Lems's mind travels back in time to when he was a 12-year-old growing up in a Macedonian orphanage after World War II. With no family and no place to live, he wanders the war-torn countryside aimlessly, only to be picked up by communist soldiers and taken to a children's orphanage for ideological "reprogramming". TheGreatWaterMovie.com

**The Great Water**
90 Minutes
$26.95
Artis 3/Kaval Film/World Circle Foundation/Castor Films




**Family Pack**
90 Minutes
$29.95
Ariztical

From the director of Ma Vie en Rose, a lesbian comedy about Sacha who returns to Belgium from Montreal, only to encounter a challenging maze of expectations, flirtations and family secrets. July 1969. Man prepares to walk on the moon, but in a small town in Belgium life goes on as usual, sort of. Sacha's (Marie Bunel—Ma Vie En Rose) family believes her to be in Montreal going to medical school, and maybe finding a handsome husband somewhere along the way. Instead, she found Odile, a woman, who has given her an ultimatum. Sacha needs to come out to her family at home, or the relationship is over. The directorial debut from Chris Vander Stappen, co-writer of 'Ma Vie En Rose'.

RECORD REVIEWS / ARTIST PROFILES

# SOUND

REBA'S MUSIC HAS BECOME A SOUNDTRACK FOR THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE

# FOREVER REBA

## Reba now marks that career by turning in a 35-song compilation of her number one singles, plus two brand new recordings.

**Reba McIntire**
**Reba #1's**
MCA
**A+**

From "Can't Even Get the Blues" in 1982 to "Somebody" in 2004, Reba McEntire has been delivering number one songs for many years. Her name and voice are synonymous with country music. Reba now marks that career by turning in a 35-song compilation of her number one singles, plus two brand new recordings.

Reba #1's is a celebration of a career that has included 33 #1 hits, 29 albums, multiple awards and countless shows and performances. This album is a collection of the songs country music fans have known and loved for over two decades.

As a mainstay on country radio, Reba's music has become a soundtrack for the human experience. She has put words to our heartache with songs like "You Lie," "Somebody Should Leave" and "Rumor Has It"; inspired us with "I'm A Survivor" and "How Was I To Know"; and broke our hearts with "The Greatest Man I Never Knew" and "And Still." And no one can deliver a love song like the redhead from Oklahoma – "Somebody" and "Forever Love" gave us hope that love really does conquer all.

The first new single from Reba #1's, "You're Gonna Be," speaks of a mother's love for her child through all of the ups and downs that life brings. The soaring chorus is a mix of advice, encouragement and inspiration. A second new song, "Love Needs A Holiday," is an upbeat tale of a married couple who just needs a break from the daily grind. Both songs teem with the passion and talent Reba fans know and love, and listeners will recognize a piece of themselves in the stories they tell.

That talent has also brought her a slew of awards and honors, including 15 American Music Awards, 12 Academy of Country Music awards, 7 Country Music Association awards and 2 Grammy's.

In a career that has now expanded beyond music, Reba is also a multiple award winner in the acting arena. Her critically acclaimed Broadway debut in 2001's ANNIE GET YOUR GUN was awarded both the Drama Desk and Outer Critics awards. Now in its fifth season, her self-titled TV show, REBA, reigns as the WB's top rated sitcom and has landed Reba a Golden Globe nomination and a People's Choice Award.

Reba's ever-expanding talents have now grown to encompass a clothing line as well. REBA, a woman's clothing collection of business and casual separates, entered the fashion place in the spring of 2005 and is now sold via Dillard's and www.rebawear.com. The line is an extension of Reba's style and taste, and offers a bit of her personality to shoppers.

Through her music, television show, clothing collection, and everything else she does, Reba McEntire represents the ideals, dreams and issues that people of all backgrounds care about. She speaks to our everyday lives while showing us what else is out there. Her personality and talent have drawn in millions of fans. It's why she became the first country female artist to sell five million copies of one album since Patsy Cline. It's why she's now sold more than 49 million albums in her career.

Reba McEntire has been the leading lady of country music for over 20 years. While her career now stretches far beyond country music, she's never forgotten her roots. She is a role model for those who have come behind her, inspiring them to take chances and refuse to accept limitations on what they can do.

Reba #1's is a picture of longevity and consistency, of music that inspires and reaches people where they are. It's Reba McEntire at her very best.

## Mariah Carey
### THE EMANCIPATION OF MIMI: ULTRA PLATINUM EDITION
Centaur Music

A

It's been quite a year for Mariah Carey, with one of the most astounding comebacks of the decade. Now, The Emancipation Of Mimi: Ultra Platinum Edition, the expanded configuration of her quadruple-platinum Island Records album will recap all 14 tracks on The Emancipation Of Mimi, which sold more than 4 million copies in the U.S. and over 6 million worldwide, but adds four new tracks: "Don't Forget About Us," which was #1 most-added at Pop, Rhythm and Urban radio formats; "So Lonely (One and Only Part 2)," Mariah's collab-o-ration with Twista (with a new extra verse written by Mariah); the remix of "We Belong Together" featuring Jadakiss and Styles P. (previously only available digitally online); and "What It Look Like," featuring Jermaine Dupri. Ultra Platinum Edition is also available as a special deluxe limited edition two-disc (CD + DVD) package. The exclusive DVD will feature the full-length video clips of "It's Like That," "We Belong Together," "Shake It Off," and "Get Your Number" (featuring Jermaine Dupri, which will be making its U.S. debut on this DVD), plus a link to access the brand new video for "Don't Forget About Us."

## GOAPELE
### CHANGE IT ALL
Sony

B+

Goapele brings an infusion of fresh energy and a classic, yet new sound to R&B music with her newest CD Change It All. The Oakland, California-based songstress broke onto the Bay Area music scene in 2001 with her ethereal EP, Closer, and the follow-up full-length album, Even Closer. Released on her family-owned record company, Skyblaze Recordings, the album's mix of soulful grooves and thought-provoking lyrics introduced the world to a multi-faceted artist and songwriter, known as much for her social and political activism as for her lush romantic ballads. "I grew up," Goapele explains, "inspired by a tradition of soulful singers like Stevie Wonder, Nina Simone, Bob Marley, and Miriam Makeba, people who created timeless music and positive change in the world. I'm also part of the hip hop generation, and my influences continue to grow, so my music has become a blend of many musical traditions." For her new CD, Goapele returned to her Bay Area roots to craft an artistically challenging sophomore set inspired by her recent experiences both in and out of the industry. The result is a collection of love songs and politically and socially inspired songs that remain true to Goapele's firmly planted soul roots while allowing her to branch out in a number of exciting, new directions. Songs like the emotive "Darker Side Of The Moon" and "Love Me Right," with its electro-pop funk, show Goapele taking aesthetic risks while staying true to her signature sound.

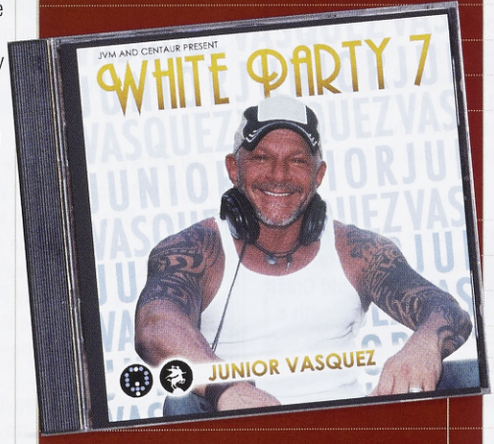
## Morningwood
### SELF-TITLED
Capitol

A

Riff-shredding, ass-shaking, louder-than-life Morningwood is a glorious hodgepodge of personalities, backgrounds and influences—much like their NYC hometown—but that's where the pigeonholing ends. "There's an attitude, this balls-to-the-wall feeling, you don't hear so much in New York these days," says Morningwood frontwoman Chantal Claret. "At one time there was a grittiness here with the local bands, a passion and energy, but now it seems pretty safe." Ceaselessly inspired by the insanity of their home city but dying to get away from the endless distraction of living in it, the band was eager to record their debut elsewhere. That's when famed producer Gil Norton called to invite the band to London. The result is an amazing self-titled debut CD. Morningwood's debut is a bit of a party record—a cross between Motley Crue meets Van Halen meets Joan Jett. Songs like "Nu Rock" and "Body 21" erupt out of the speakers, as catchy as they are searing. "Take Off Your Clothes," which Morningwood fans have been known to take literally at live shows, reflects the band's unabashed sense of fun. "Nth Degree" is a roof-down summer love song and call to the dance floor that will not be denied. And throughout the album the band takes daring hairpin turns with their dynamics—"Jetsetter" in particular goes from flirty whisper to epic hard rock stomp in the blink of an eye, before lovingly destroying everything in its path.

## JUNIOR VASQUEZ
### PARTY GROOVE: WHITE PARTY VOLUME 7
Centaur Music

A+




DJ/Producer Junior Vasquez makes his debut on the Centaur label with Party Groove: White Party Volume 7. The new mix, Junior's first commercial CD in several years, is the latest addition to Centaur's highly acclaimed White Party series and is being presented in conjunction with Junior Vasquez Music. "I tried to make it edgy, uplifting, anthemic and spiritual," says Junior. "For many years I was criticized for playing pots-and-pans but I'm over that sound. I love great vocals with instrumentation that's tough-as-nails to underpin the song." Junior"s well-publicized sobriety in the past year has certainly influenced him musically, taking him in the direction of more succinct and uplifting sounds. Junior describes his new CD as "not so different from Anthems 1 & 2," quickly pointing out that on this CD he has included a lot of the music that he did not produce himself. Two Junior Vasquez mixes that do appear include the Destiny's Child song "Stand Up For Love," which is the 2005 World Children's Day Anthem and appears on their new #1's album, as well as Junior's exclusive new mix of "Stupid Like U" which features Deborah Cox. Junior is also proud to have included productions from Tom Stephan/ Superchumbo, Offer Nissim, Rooster & Sammy as well as his favorite newcomers: Matt Piso and Tim Letteer.

The best part of the new year is getting to bitch about how bad the last year was...

# SWANNER AND JUDD

**SWANNER'S BEST**
Brokeback Mountain
Crash
Harry Potter and The Goblet of Fire
Millions
Rent

**SWANNER'S WORST**
Alone in the Dark
Dark Water
Shark Boy and Lava Girl
Sound of Thunder
Stay
Stealth

**JUDD'S BEST**
40-Year-Old Virgin
Brokeback Mountain
Broken Flowers
Crash
History of Violence

**JUDD'S WORST**
Alone In The Dark
Domino
Shark Boy and Lava Girl
Stealth
Son of The Mask

**SWANNER** ...was and boy was 2005 a banner year for bad movies. I was looking over my good and bad list (yes, just like Santa) and there was a lot more bad than good. So Brian and I are going to look back and give you our best and worst of 2005. We'll start with the best since most of mine will be on Brian's worst list. I have to start with Brokeback Mountain because it's just so outstanding and it's pretty much on everyone's best list. ove this time of year because all the real movies come out—not the crap they shoved down our throats this summer. Going to the theatre this fall has been a pleasure. Where do you want to start on this lovefest?

**JUDD** I agree that Brokeback Mountain is the best movie to come out this year. It deserves every accolade it has received. I will add Crash to this list as it was an excellent movie with a good plot, a stellar cast and exceptional acting. In fact, I find it odd that a movie of its caliber came out so early in the year.

**SWANNER** Crash is also on my best list—this is scary—I remember watching it in the theatre and how many times the audience went completely quiet. I'm getting chills just thinking about it. Millions is also one of my best pictures. It was one of those sweet movies that really surprised me. The two young actors were charming and to think I'm touting a Danny Boyle movie says a lot.

**JUDD** Well, this is where we part ways. I saw Millions and while I would recommend it to everyone, I wouldn't say it was one of the best of 2005. I'm going to throw The 40-Year-Old Virgin into the mix. Why? Because this was the only R-rated, adult comedy that came out this year that was truly a laugh a minute. I can't think of any other film that came out this year that made me laugh so hard. Let alone a romantic comedy that made me laugh that hard and not want to retch!

**SWANNER** I liked The 40-Year-Old Virgin but best picture? Put down the pipe, Brian. My final two pictures are Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire—just for being great fun and entertaining, and finally Rent which I just loved. I loved the Broadway musical but love the movie more.

**JUDD** Speaking of movies that make me want to retch! OK, my final two nods go to A History of Violence for being an uber-violent gangster film with a good plot, and Broken Flowers for having the weight that other more popular movies that came out this year tried to carry.

**SWANNER** OK...now for the worst. I know it was hard to narrow it down to just five movies but Shark Boy and Lava Girl has to be on the list. It took me a good 30 minutes of screaming in the car to get over that one. Just because Robert Rodriguez's son wrote the story doesn't mean I should have to watch it. It's like going to someone's house and them forcing you to look at their children's art projects. While I'm on the subject of horrible...how about Stay. It was that stupid waste of time movie that had Ewan McGregor as a doctor dealing with a suicidal patient. After watching that pile of crap I was suicidal.

**JUDD** Oh my God! I forgot about Shark Boy and Lava Girl. I repressed it! What a piece of trash. It's at the top of my Worst list as well. Stay was bad, but there were worse this year. Son of The Mask was horrible, and Stealth was so bad that Jamie Fox actually killed himself off before the movie was half over.

**SWANNER** Stealth is on my list, too. This year I ended an 11-year relationship—after having to watch Stealth the other problem didn't seem so bad. Alone in the Dark was bad, but so insightful of what the theatres that played it must have looked like.

Come on, how good could it be when it stars Tara Reid. I hate her and I refuse to see any movie she stars in. Why do they even let her act?

**JUDD** Alone in the Dark—that's another one I forgot about. It certainly belongs on the list. You know I thought I was going to have some fun and remember the laughably bad movies that came out this year, but 2005 really scraped the bottom of the barrel. These movies aren't laughably bad, they're just plain painful. I'm thinking of the movies I've seen this year, and I don't know what I want to be my fifth. I wish we could give dishonorable mention, but that would require a special insert in the magazine. Ok, so my fifth worst film has to be Domino. Everything about it was horrible. Absolutely horrible.

**SWANNER** I was so glad I missed Domino but I did see Dark Water. Here was another remake of a Japanese film that shouldn't have been remade. I didn't see the original but if it was as boring and predictable as this remake then I won't be seeing it. As I said in my original review, as with all dark water...flush it. Finally, my selection for worst movie of the year is Sound of Thunder. Bad acting, bad special effects, bad direction and finally a ridiculous script make this my choice for worst movie of 2005 hands down. The worse part of it is that I almost want people to see it so they know how really bad it is...that makes me sadistic doesn't it?

**JUDD** I'm not going to say anything because I enjoyed Sound of Thunder. It was one of those laughably bad movies that I'll watch again sometime when I need a good chuckle.

**SWANNER** I guess that makes you masochistic!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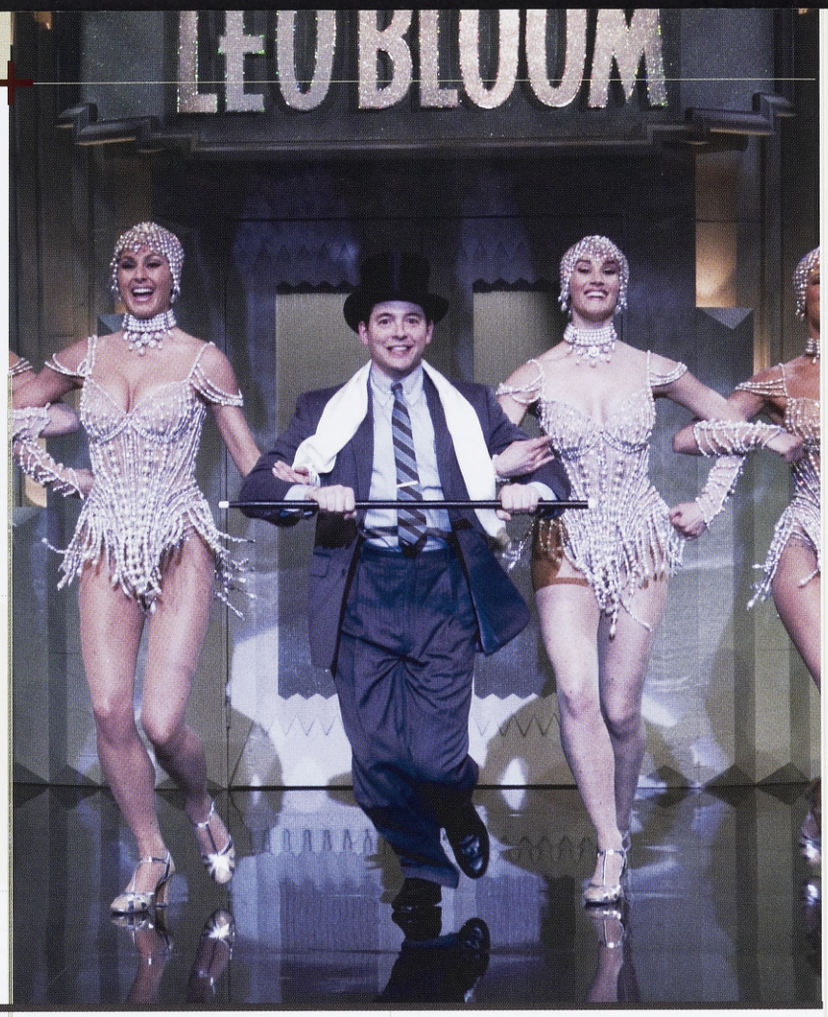
# KEEP IT GAY

*by* Stefan Gruenwedel




## The Producers

Starring Nathan Lane, Matthew Broderick, Uma Thurman, and Will Ferrell.
Music and lyrics by Mel Brooks.
Choreographed and directed by Susan Stroman.
(Rated PG-13, 134 min.)

Nobody would ever accuse Mel Brooks of subtlety or understatement. His personality is over the top and his brand of comedy often blends the high with the low—sometimes too much of the low. When he's inspired, however, he can be brilliant. Young Frankenstein is undeniably inspired. The Producers comes a close second.

It might seem odd that Brooks would remake a film that won him an Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay over thirty years ago. But things have changed since then. Not long ago he produced a musical version for Broadway. It won a record-breaking 12 Tony Awards, sold out for weeks, and presumably made Brooks more than enough money to "lunch at Sardi's every day," to quote a line from the show.

A major contributor to the musical's wild popularity was its casting. It's no surprise that Brooks brought its key performers—as well as its director and choreographer—over to his cinematic venture. It's a good thing he did because their talent and interpersonal chemistry on the screen practically guarantee the film's success with the right audience—those who love musicals and have the proper sensibilities not to allow political incorrectness to dull their sense of humor.

The basic premise is deviously clever and fiendishly executed. Bombastic theater producer Max Bialystock (Nathan Lane) is losing his edge. His latest production is a flop. As the theatergoers sing in the film's opening number: "The songs were rotten / The book was stinkin' / What he did to Shakespeare / Booth did to Lincoln!"

One day self-effacing accountant Leo Bloom (Matthew Broderick) enters Bialystock's office to look over his books. After crunching some numbers Bloom observes that a dishonest man could, in theory, make more money producing a guaranteed flop instead of a hit. Bialystock loves the idea and soon convinces Bloom to join him.

Bialystock and Bloom make an odd couple. Both are desperate men who stoop to trickery to get what they want. Yet they are made for one another and grow affectionate, singing: "No one ever made me feel like someone / 'Til him. / Life was really nothing but a glum one / 'Til him." It's a tender moment, given the nature of the film.

To succeed in their plan, all they need is a terrible play to produce and the world's worst director to see things through. They find the former in a horrendous script by a (stereotypically accented) neo-Nazi named Franz Liebkind (Will Farrell). Called "Springtime for Hitler: A Gay Romp with Adolf and Eva in Berchtesgaden," his story is so bad, it promises to close the show on opening night so that Bialystock and Bloom can keep the money they've raise.

As for the worst director, they find it in Roger DeBris (Gary Beach) who has a simple solution for everything: "No matter what you do on the stage / Keep it light, keep it bright, keep it gay! / Whether it's murder, mayhem or rage / Don't complain, it's a pain, keep it gay!" He plays the campiest Hitler of all time—singing a song called, of all things, "Heil Myself."

If this doesn't sound ridiculous enough, wait—there's more. Bialystock and Bloom enlist the help of a secretary named Ulla (Uma Thurman) whose cute Swedish accent, hot body, and considerable gymnastic skills provide a love interest for Bloom, not to mention a means of escape when all hell breaks loose at the end.

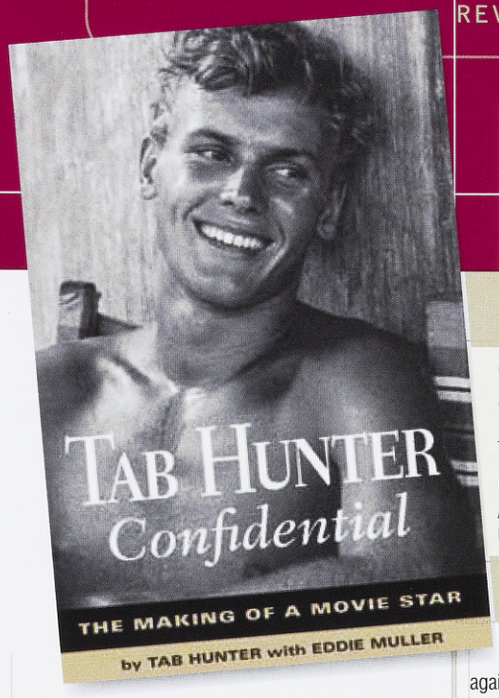
What happens is that Bialystock and Bloom's production of "Springtime for Hitler" is so campy, so gaudy, and in such poor taste that audiences decide that surely it must be a parody. Audience members seen walking out earlier in disgust return to their seats and eat the rest of the musical up as though it's the funniest thing they've ever seen. The only problem is that it was supposed to be a flop. With success on their hands—and a bamboozled Liebkind after them, irate at the script they perverted—they hatch their escape.

Lane is the film's dynamo. He's amazing in all of his scenes. Broderick takes some getting used to but the film's supporting characters are surprisingly entertaining: the old ladies whom Bialystock woos for their funds, Jon Lovitz as Bloom's sadistic boss at the accounting firm, and DeBris' partner Carmen Ghia (Roger Bart), who makes a scene-stealing first appearance.

The Producers is in wide release. Info: theproducersmovie.com.

REVIEW OF BOOKS

# PRINT



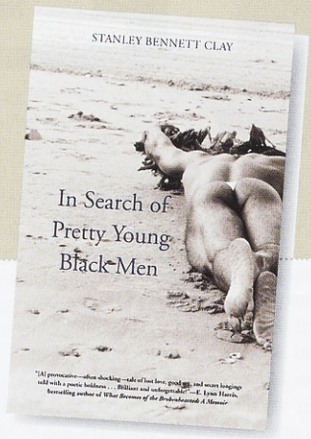

## Tab Hunter; The Making of a Movie Star

Tab Hunter, Eddie Muller
Hardcover, 408 pages
**ALGONQUIN BOOKS**
ISBN: 1413790674

The 1950s heartthrob has penned a brave, surprising and sad memoir about depression—focusing on his mother, repression, his homosexuality and redemption—including a career revival and meeting his partner of 20-plus years). Hunter (b. 1931) was a good-looking 19-year-old with no acting experience when he was molded into a movie star, later stumbling into a hit record (1957's Young Love) and a two-year affair with Anthony Perkins. Although his acting improved over a decade of mediocre films, by the early 1960s he was scrambling for parts in movies starring Soupy Sales and going overseas to film spaghetti westerns. His career was reborn when he co-starred with Divine in John Water's Polyester (1981) and again in Lust in the Dust (1985), which introduced Hunter to a new generation and turned him into a gay icon. Hunter, who is virtually alone among actors of his era and stature to write about living a closeted gay life in Hollywood's spotlight, is honest about his shortcomings and missteps. He's made an admirable choice to chart his life through friendships and hardships, both emotional and financial, rather than just his career trajectory. While he was struggling with his true identity and trying to stay afloat financially, his mother had a complete breakdown and he was forced to hospitalize her in less than ideal conditions. This also had to be a secret from the fans. His friendships, both intimate and platonic, kept him going, as well as his deep faith in Catholicism. Tab Hunter has his own unique pact with God. This is an illuminating, emotionally charged and important piece of Hollywood's hidden history.

## In Search of Pretty Young Black Men

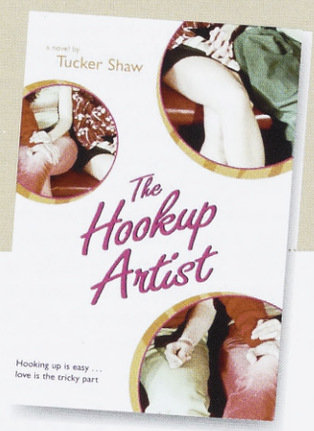
Stanley Bennett Clay
Softcover: 176 pages
**ATRIA BOOKS**
ISBN: 100743497163




Los Angeles has no ghettos, according to some. And that is nearly true. But even behind the sun-kissed façade of privilege in its Black upper middle class is a harsher reality....So begins the tale of Dorian Moore, a seductive young man who provides comfort to the moneyed, the neglected, the lost, and the lonely in an elegant hilltop community in Southern California -- Maggie Lester Allegro among them. Disillusioned by a loveless marriage, Maggie finds support in her small circle of women friends, and sexual healing in Dorian's arms. But the blessing brought by this pretty black man soon becomes a fatal curse for Maggie and her husband, Lamont. When Lamont -- the son of an influential member of the Baldwin Hills gentry -- seeks sexual solace outside the marriage, a series of terrible truths come to light...and soon he begins to crumble under the weight of his own family secrets and lies that threaten to shatter his carefully guarded life. Poetically rendered and provocative, In Search of Pretty Young Black Men is an illuminating novel that challenges our notions of sex, success, prestige, and, most of all, love.

## The Hookup Artist

Tucker Shaw
Hardcover: 208 pages
**HARPERCOLLINS**
ISBN: 0060756209




Lucas is a genius matchmaker, a hook-up artist, and everyone at Thomas Jefferson High School seems to need his expertise. When it comes to finding his own true love, things aren't so easy. He's had his heart broken and the prospects aren't promising. But Lucas has bigger worries -- his best friend, Cate, has just been dumped, and he has to find her new Mr. Right. And right on schedule, a new guy shows up at TJHS. Derek is friendly, athletic, and the hottie of the century. As the matchmaker tries to work his magic, it seems like Derek is flirting with Lucas more than with Cate. Which makes everyone wonder—who is Derek interested in, anyway? Author Tucker Shaw grew up in Denver, Colorado, where he loved the chile con queso at Piccolo's on Evans Avenue. Since moving to New York, he's written several self-help books for teens (some more helpful than others) and two young adult novels: Flavor of the Week (a love story with recipes) and Confessions of a Backup Dancer (co-authored with "Anonymous"). He's a big Selena fan and loves watching TV.

# DINNER WITH THE DIETITIAN

Sacramento CARES clinic's nutrition specialist, Margie Erwin, continues her popular dinner meetings (with free dinner!) in the clinic's first floor boardroom, 6:00-7:30, first Monday of the month. This year, there will be eight events (no dinners in January, July, Sept, and Oct). All are open to those who are HIV positive and their family. Just call 914-6285 to RSVP and make sure event is still on, and come enjoy the evening's topic. RSVPs are always appreciated, but if you forget, come anyway, says Margie.

Here's the topic schedule: Feb 6--HIV and your heart, March 6—How micro-nutrients impact your health and healing, April 3—Building body cell mass at home, May 1—Meds and possible food interactions, June 5—(Dinner at McKinley Park)--Healthy grilling techniques and recipes.

# FALSE-POSITIVES IMPACT USE OF ORAL TEST

Large numbers of false-positives with the Ora-Sure HIV test are being reported by clinics in San Francisco, New York, and Los Angeles, and one L.A. clinic says it will stop using it altogether. That announcement, and the prediction that more clinics will stop using the test, plus the decision by Congress to remove the purchase of this product from the Dept of Health & Human Services bill for 2006, has caused a critical change in the stock's investment rating.

# SAN FRANCISCO TO GET PORTION OF AIDS QUILT

The last part of the settlement between Quilt founder Cleve Jones and the Names Project Foundation in Atlanta was reached in December. This settlement results in the return of 35 sections of the Quilt to San Francisco, where the project was begun when Cleve created the first panel in 1987 for his best friend, Marvin Feldman.

After starting the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, Cleve served as its executive director until illness forced him to resign that post. A newly created Names Project Foundation assumed responsibility for the 46,000 panels, which represent 83,400 names, and soon moved the 54-ton Quilt from San Francisco to Atlanta. Cleve objected to the move, and other management issues began to cause friction and confusion as to Cleve's status with the Foundation. In May of last year, a San Francisco judge dismissed Cleve's charges of wrongful termination and breach of contract, saying he was in error by demanding control of the organization and making comments suggesting the Foundation's leader was ineffective.

Under the latest, and hopefully final, settlement, the Names Foundation in Atlanta has agreed to allow Cleve to create a nonprofit organization in San Francisco to display portions of the Quilt, and will send him 35 twelve-by-twelve sections (more than 250 panels), including the Feldman panel, for this endeavor. He says he will begin the process of filing for nonprofit status this month.

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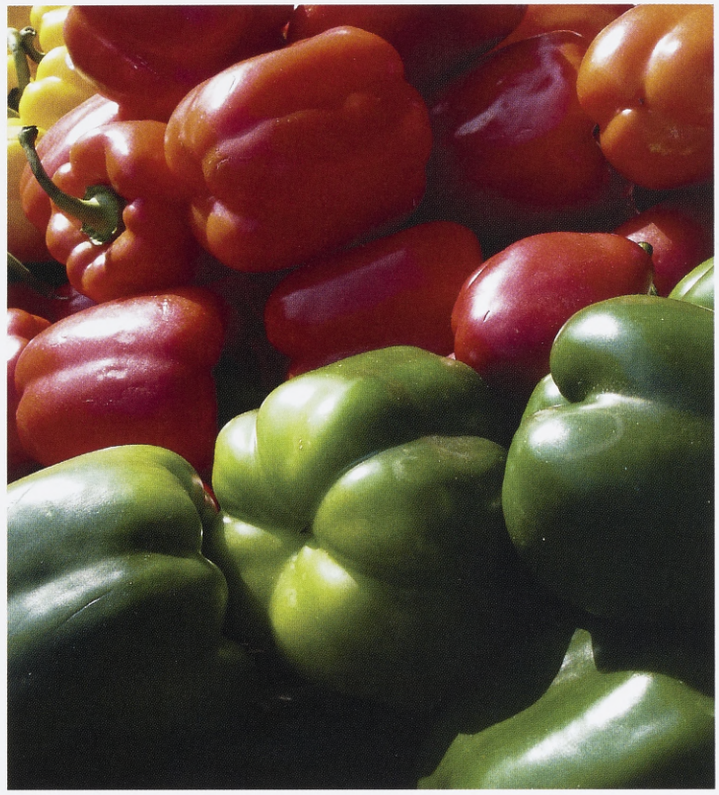

# HIV NEWS

## HIV AND SMOKING—BURNING UP LIVES

The culture of AIDS is a culture of smoking, say speakers at the world's first conference on HIV & Smoking, held in New York in November. While about 22 percent of Americans smoke, they say a recent study shows that about 66 percent of people with HIV are smoking. In addition, people with HIV are at much greater risk of negative health outcomes related to smoking than those without the virus.

Part of the reason for smoking is, of course, the stress of having a serious, potentially life-threatening disease. But more information, they say, is needed to educate people about the highly negative health impact of smoking, and remind those on Medicaid that the program pays for nicotine replacement therapy. People who still smoke are encouraged to find a workshop or program to get them off the nicotine—a good new year's resolution, and an investment of your time and trouble that will pay you back big-time.

## CDC SANCTIONS NEW BLOOD TEST FOR TB

A second, but potentially more accurate blood test for tuberculosis, that is believed to yield fewer false positives and false negatives, has been authorized for use by the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta. It is also faster and more convenient to use.

For the past 100 years, health care workers have used a skin test to detect TB, in which a small amount of protein-bearing testing fluid—tuberculin—is injected just under the skin on the underside of a person's forearm. After two to three days, the person must be re-evaluated by a health worker

## AFRICA – SUCCESSES, FAILURES

AIDS has torn through sub-Saharan Africa, killing 2.4 million people last year alone. Medicines that have turned the disease into a manageable chronic condition in wealthier nations remain out of reach for most people in Africa, where 60 percent of those impacted worldwide reside.

**Botswana (slightly smaller than Texas) in 2002 became the first African country to offer free treatment to all who need it. With more than a third of adults infected, the largely desert nation now has half the estimated 110,000 people in immediate need on life-prolonging anti-retroviral meds. Even so, life expectancy there has plunged to 39 years, people with AIDS overwhelm hospital wards, and funeral homes offer 24-hour service. But Botswana has realized it has an advantage, with a small population of under 2 million, as well as diamonds, which have made the country comparatively wealthy. Now, most people live within five miles of a clinic. "If HIV was left to take its course, this country would be literally destroyed both economically and socially," said the manager of the country's treatment program. "Not treating is not an option."

**Zambia witch doctors still tell people with HIV symtoms that they are possessed, that they might have a snake or a ghost in their body, or that they might be bewitched by a jealous neighbor. The power of traditional African healers in northern Zambia, where up to 25 percent of the population is HIV-infected, is enormous. People go to them first and treatment can be fatally delayed. Western and traditional medicine in Zambia are culturally miles apart, and changes in cultural practices are needed.

"HIV is largely spread around here because of polygamy," says one HIV-infected teacher. "Our culture accepts that a man can have five or more wives. That means that the disease can be spread very far." Even riskier, say others, is the southern African practice of "sexual cleansing" to get rid of the ghost of a dead spouse by making the wife of a dead man have sex with his brother. It has been officially banned by most local chiefs and the Zambian government. Some men believe that if you sleep with a young woman you will be cured. Others think that if you eat African potatoes you will get better.

"Things change slowly," said one official. "People are dying just because of misconceptions and lack of information. As they learn, so they lose their fear. We are beginning to change how people think. It's much more positive now."

**Kenya is home to a mystery, and a study funded by Britain is seeking to learn why tens of thousands of Kenyan couples, with one person HIV positive and the other HIV negative, are not transmitting the virus to each other despite having unprotected intercourse over long periods of time.

Whatever the reasons, says the Kenya director of health, we want to make sure we reach as many of these serodiscordant couples as possible and get them tested so that we can counsel them. If one partner is still negative, we want to keep them negative.

# EWSWIRE

by Sonya Cox

to assess the swelling and determine whether or not the test is positive. But the QuantiFERON-TB Gold test, made by the Australian firm Cellestis Limited, requires people to get only one blood draw, and they can then be notified when the results are available, which can be as soon as the following day.

The QFT Gold test, which was approved by the Food & Drug Administration in May, seems to address some of the problems found with the skin test. Some types of non-TB bacteria can cause the skin test to produce a false positive result. People who have been inoculated with a certain type of TB vaccine used in other countries can also yield false positive results. In addition, immuno-compromised folks can sometimes receive false negatives.

Nonetheless, the CDC cautions that more studies are needed, particularly in children and people with compromised immune systems. "We're saying this can be used instead of the tuberculin test," they said. "But we're not going as far as saying it should replace it."

The QFT Gold test costs around $15, plus an additional $10 to administer. While the skin test is less expensive, its labor costs bring it to around the same price, says the San Francisco health department, which already conducts most of its TB screening using the QFT Gold test.

### HIGH LEVELS OF EFAVIRENZ CAN CAUSE ADVERSE DISORDERS

As many as half the people on high doses of Efavirenz (Sustiva) for a long term could have an increased rate of adverse mental problems such as sleeping disorders, say Spanish researchers. Researchers evaluated 17 people on combination regimens that included Efavirenz and who had no history of mental issues or illness. They assessed the group every three months for 18 months, and tested Efavirenz levels five times. Ten of the 17 volunteers experienced mental issues during the study, with sleeping problems being the most common. In four people, side effects included depression, mood and concentration/attention problems, and obsessive disorder, ranging from moderate to severe. All four discontinued the drug.

People with blood levels of Efavirenz above 2.74 micrograms/milliliter had a five-fold greater risk of central nervous system side effects than those on lower dosages. Studies have shown Efavirenz levels above 1 microgram/milliliter may be adequate to suppress HIV, so there may be room for dose reduction to avoid side effects in some cases, wrote the study authors.

However, people who have failed on other regimens may require blood levels above 3 micrograms/milliliter, so they and their physicians may wish to keep special track of any potential side effects.

## Friends Lost in JANUARY IN LOVING MEMORY

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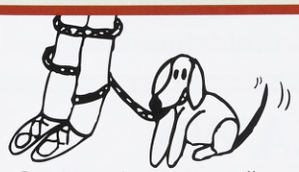
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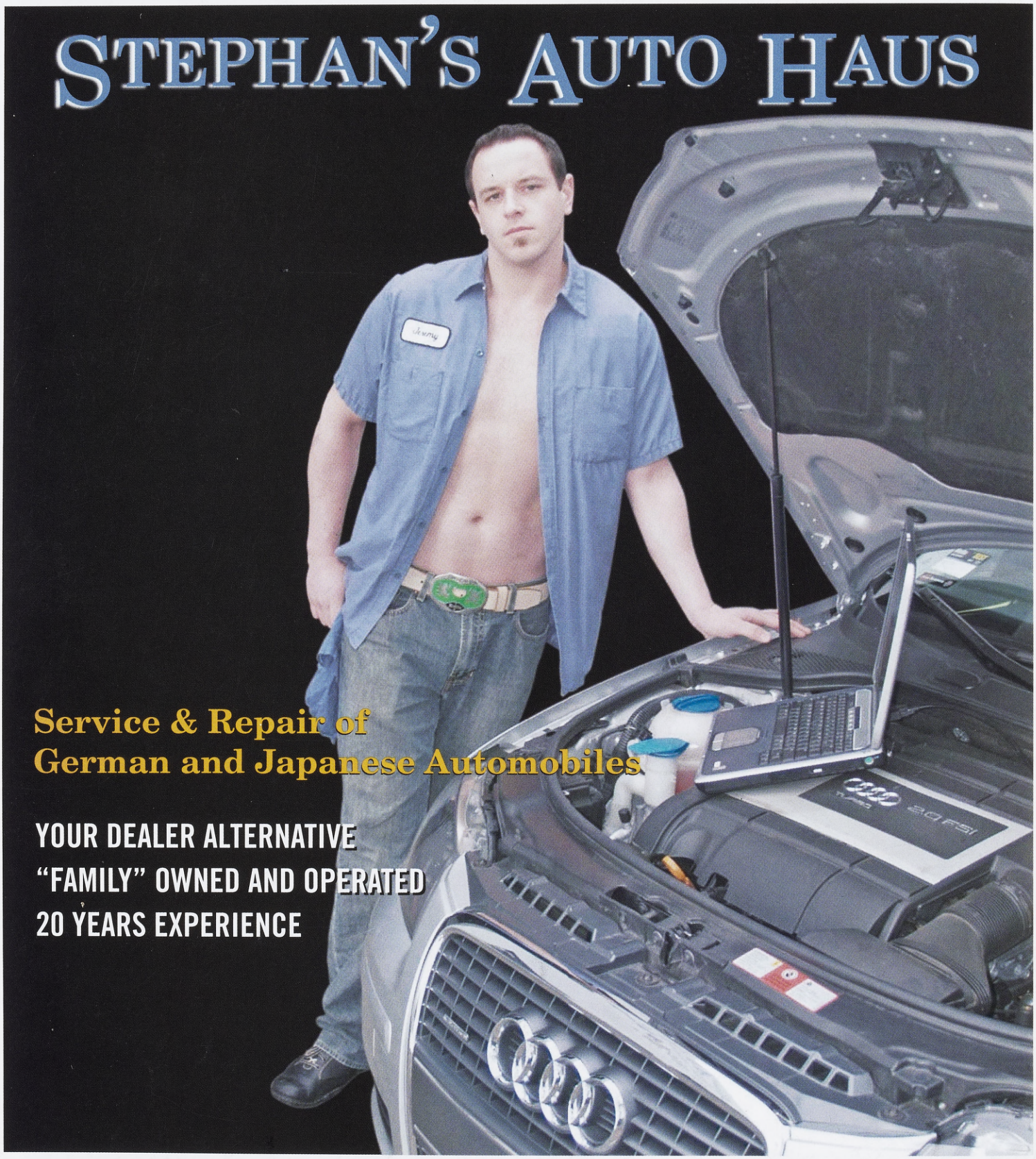

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Our goal is to provide the best service your vehicle has ever experienced while making your experience the same! With over 20 years in the automotive industry you can trust your vehicles troubles to us and have the peace of mind that it will be fixed right the first time. We are open Monday through Friday 8:00AM to 5:30PM. Call to set up an appointment to get the best service in Sacramento.

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